

THE R. G. N.
Impostor Expos'd,
IN A
DISSECTION
OF A
Villanous Libell,

(Here Printed at large) Entituled,
A LETTER to a Person of
Honour, concerning the Black Wor.

*O Virtutis. inanem custodiam sui, si alieno scelere
potest esse Deformis ! Euphorm. Apolog.
Pars 3.*

*Qua sava Multitudinis Fides, in qua, quid fer-
vet, cuilibet impunè peccare est. Argenis.*

L O N D O N,

Printed for **James Glade**, at the **Cock and Su-
gar-Loaf**, near **St. Dunstan's-Church** in **Fleet-
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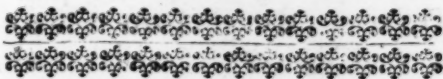
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N. S. R. 1746



1746 12



The Impostor Expos'd,
IN A
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Villanous Libel, &c.

The Introduction.

SECTION I.



Though I have fresh in
Memory not a few
Pregnant Instances
of the Danger, and
Unsuccessfulness, ac-
companying Generous Attempts

to stem the Tide of a Popular Prejudice; though I am well aware of the odious Scandals, and Reflections, that are still heap'd upon such as presume to work against the Grain of a *Vulgar Caprice*; or to be so unfashionably Singular, as not to tune up their Zeal a Note above (**Cla**) the Highest in the **Gamut**: Nay, though I am sensibly Conscious of my own great *Insufficiency*, as well in point of Personal Abilities, as of a Competent Acquaintance with the Privacies of the Cabinet, and the less Secret Resolutions and Transactions of State: Yet, being strongly of Belief, that the pretended *Letter to a Person of Honour, concerning the Black Box*, is a Libel of a Quality so transcendently Lewd, that Hell
(per-

(perhaps) never Dictated, *Mercenary* Scribled, nor *Light* Beheld a more Villanous; that almost every *Page* of it is stuff'd with Treason, and each individual *Paragraph* with the rankest Falshood, Sedition, Insolence, Slander, and Detraction, that can be imagin'd; and that, in the Original Intent of it, it was expressly Calculated for the Destruction of the *Best Prince*, the Subversion of the *Best Government*, the Extirpation of the *Purest Religion*, and the Being, or rather Name it self, of the *Happiest People* this Day under the Cope of Heaven: I am irresistibly hurry'd-on by Impulses of *Duty* and *Allegiance*, (since *Broader Shoulders* do not enter the *Lists*) to take up the *Gantlet*, and endeavour, what in me lyeth, to

Condemn this *Prostitute* to suffer by a Weak Hand; so effectually to Conjure down this *Evil Spirit*, Extinguish this *Glaring Comet*, that it may never again Appear to the Frightment and Annoyance of the *Peaceable*; to Antidote the Poyson, and stop the Pestilential Influence of this *Viperous Impostor*, by Unmasking and Blazoning him in his Proper Colours, to the Eye of the World.

And so very secure am I in the Uprightness of my *Heart*, and the Innocence of my *Meaning*; that I do as little apprehend, as design any sort of Offence, *Hereby*, to the Honest and Sober: Beside that, if in an *Age* which seems to have Epitomiz'd all the Wickedness of former Times, and where Vice is in the *Fault*, Virtue
in

in the *Wain*; if, in a *Nation* where Extremity prescribes to all Proceedings, and where Passions are inflam'd, Parties prepar'd, and all manner of bad Humors fatally predominant, *Pamphlets* of this Diabolical Purport be suffer'd to stalk about, without a Brand of Publick Infamy, and it shall become unsafe for the *Friends* of the *Constitution* to Combat the Enemies of it; There will soon (I fear me) be too much Reason to dread a *Relapse* into the same Abyss of Calamities, wherein, by our Sins and Follies, we were so lately, so desperately plung'd; a *Repetition* of all the Miseries, and Violences, that by the *Army*, the *Rump*, and other *Architects* of our Slavery, were brought upon us in the *Dayes* of

Fiery Tryal: that our Temples will be turn'd into Stables, Fonts into Horse-Troughs, and Altars Sacrilegiously profan'd by the Hot-headed *Fanatick*; that the Bread will be torn out of our Childrens Mouths, our Substance devour'd, our Wives and Daughters Ravish'd before our Eyes, by the Hireling *Souldier*; that our Laws and Liberties will lye agonizing at the Foot of *Faction* and *Tyranny*; and that we must again deliver up our selves to be *Tenants in Courtesie* for all we have, to a Knot of Beggarly Raskals, back't with the Sword.

Now, to gratify a *Curiosity* that it would be Impolitick to disoblige; to make it evident, that I deal frankly, and give my Adversary fair Play, the very Method

thod also of my **Dissection** necessarily requiring it; I have ventur'd to Print this *Counterfeit* of a Letter *verbatim*, and at large, and to Expose it, together with my *Little Remarks*, to Open Censure: And *This* too, in Confidence that, (how much so ever the *Truth* may have suffer'd by so feeble a *Patronage*, yet) thus attended, the *Snake* will endure to be familiarly approach'd and handl'd, without Harm, from his *Sting*; that *Good Men* must needs hold this vile **Imposture** in an Abhorrency and Detestation, equal to its Deserts; and that the *People*, (for such, and no other, are the *Ends* proposed, in *This Publication*) upon so full a View of the Traps and Snares, thus craftily laid for their Peace and
Well-

Wellfare, will be more Cautious, than *Heretofore*, how they follow each Flash of *Wild-Fire*, and dance after every *New-Whistle*; will not sacrifice all their *present Comforts*, to an Eager and Penfive Sollicitation for *Uncertainties*; but, for *what's to come*, less anxiously depend upon the Sufficiency of an Almighty Providence, and the Eminent Prudence and Goodness of a Gracious Sovereign. — The *Liz* begins Thus.

SECT.

S E C T. II.

LETTER.

My Lord,

YOU are pleased to command me, to give you some Account of the Foundation of that Report, which hath arrived with You concerning a **Black Box**; and withal, to let you know how Sir Gilbert Gerard acquitted himself at his Appearance before the **KING**, and Council, in reference to that *Affair*.

ANSWER. What Firmness or Stability can fairly be hop'd from a *Building*, the *Foundation* whereof is laid in the *Sand*? What Truth or Integrity from the *Sequel* of a *Discourse*, that is *Introduc'd* by an *Egregious Falsity*? And that such is the Case. Here, Morality exacts a Confidence,
and

and is in Reason manifest: For, Could there be a more Heinous Affront to the Statute *de Scandalis Magnatum*, to the whole Body of the True *English Peerage*, than to suppose any one Member of it so Regardless or Insensible of the Pulses of Faith and Honour, as either to command or conceal a *Letter* of this Villainous Drift, together with the *Penner* of it? So Perfect a Stranger to the very Essentials of his *Character*, as to be new to learn, That it is greatly below the Generosity of such Blood, as derives from the Sense of Martial Prowess, and Heroick Achievements (the Original of *Arms* and *Herauldry*) to entertain so much as a Thought of Advancing it self upon any Unworthier a Bottom, than that of pure *Merit*; and infinitely so, upon the Ignoble Motives of an Invidious Maceration at the Preferment of others, or a loss of its proper Pretensions, at one and the same time, to abandon its own Allegiance, and labour to debauch the Unwary into the Service of its Lusts, and Animo-

sities,

fities, shrouded under the Plausible Banner of *Liberty* and *Reformation*? Nay, so little edify'd by a View of the Dismal Rewards in all Ages, and as well by the *Help't*, as the *Harm'd*, collated upon Perfidious *Traitors*, (who have still Expir'd by the *Sword*, the *Ax*, or the *Halter*) as not to be fully convinc'd, that *Loyalty* is both his Duty, and his Interest; that his Weal or Woe is intirely bound up (as the *Ivy* to the *Oak*) in that of his *Prince*, (the Fountain of Honour) & that any Warping from the *Rule*, must necessarily either prostitute him to the Insolencies of his Inferiors, rais'd by an *Usurper* to curb, and awe him; or else, under a *Common-wealth* (to which, Equality of Degree is incident) reduce him to a Level with the *Lacquay*, to a Parity with the *Mechanick*? So that, had not a Principle of Self-Preservation, that Vulgar Maxim of the Order, *Never appear before the Eleventh Hour, even in Successful Rogueries*, and the Palpableness of the *Cheat* it self (which, without a Plausible Cover, could

could not have been Proof even against the weakest Eye) over-rul'd and confin'd the *Whim* of this *will with a wisp*, and render'd such a Pretence of Absolute Necessity; so Volatile a *Politicaſtor* would undoubtedly have left the common Road of Dedicating *Hereſie* and *Sedition* to this or t'other nameleſs *Lord* or *Lady*; and, in imitation of the more aſſuming Mercenaries of the *Quill*, addreſs'd this Over-grown *Epistle* of his to the *Man in the Moon*, or the *Mayor of Quinborough*.

LET. *As to the Firſt, I muſt crave Leave to diſtinguiſh betwixt what is Material in that Buſineſs, and what is meerly Circumſtantial, and ſerveth only by way of Purad.*

ANS. Were not this notable *Sophiſter* perverſly bent to abuſe his Talent to the prejudicing of the Truth, nothing leſs could be expected from the Maſter of much Method and Diſtinction, than a Deciſion to a Hairsbreadth

breadth of the weighty Controversies touching the Number of the Predicaments, Predicables, Causes, and Figures and Moods of *Syllogisms*; touching the Preference of an *Even* or *Odd* Number, the Perfectest between *Three*, *Six*, and *Ten*, and *God's* Ability to have Created the World without *Their* Assistance; about the Distinguishing and Order of Construing the *Parts of Speech*, and (to couple greater Trifles with less) the words *from*, *through*, *is*, *unless*, *until*, &c. that have occasioned such unhappy Schisms and Distractions in the *Church*; the Number of the *Pronouns*, and whether *Gerunds* are *Nouns* or *Verbs*; touching the Right *Quadrature* of the *Circle*, the *Line* truly Equal to the *Side*, the Number of the *Spheres*, *Their* and the *First Stars* Motion; In Brief, the innumerable alike furious, and important Disputes of the Schools. And indeed, such were an Exercise infinitely more Congruous to the Genius and Capacity of this Dapper *Letterato*, than his present Employment of *Scribler*.

bler-General of Rhapsodies of Pragmatick Smatterings upon the Points of the Succession of Crowns, and the Powers and Prerogatives of Kings and Parliaments.

LET. Your Lordship, whose Conversation hath given you great Advantages of knowing the Reports of the World, in relation to the KING's Marriage with the Duke of Monmouths Mother, can easily recollect, that there was never so much as a Suggestion given out till of late, of any such thing as a **Black Box**, nor of a Writing importing a Contract, consigned by the late Lord of Durham to the Custody of Sir Gilbert Gerard.

ANS. I gain-say not, that by impudently Publishing in Print the Letter, he would have us believe, he sent to I know not what Nobleman, he has undenyably made good his Subscription of Your Lordships most Humble Servant: But only take notice, that he had so much Sight in his Malice,
as

as to forget to pleasure us with an Assurance, whether his *Lordship* could unbethink himself as he would have him, yea, or no: So that I cannot be said to pass a *Contradiction* upon his *Honour*, in affirming, That the Rumour of a certain *Bishop's* Marrying the *K.* to Mrs. *W.* bears exactly the same Date with the Report of the Marriage it self, and *Both* derive from the Critical Minute of the *D.* of *T's* refusing to Take the *Oaths*, according to the Form of a Statute of *Car. 2.* Neither is this an Assertion at Random, or without Warrant; for *Richard Green*, in fol. 2. of his *Narrative* of the *Popish Massacre*, is positive, that sometime before *Feb. 1674.* or *5.* he us'd these Words to one Mr. *Boyer* of *Hereford-shire*, viz. *The Duke of Monmouth is Legitimate, for Mr. Benge of Pembridge told Me, That a very Honest Gentleman, (as Honest as Sir G. G. himself) told Him, That a Bishop told Him, He Married His Majesty to the Duke of Monmouth's Mother.* Upon which Passage, Dr. *Tonge*

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(by

(by whose Permission the Book was set forth, and whose just Praises it lively Exhibits) reflects thus: *Here it may be noted (sayes he) by what false, slye, and pernicious Insinuations, and Suggestions, the Jesuits sowe the Seeds of Sedition and Rebellion in the Minds of Simple, and well meaning Persons of all Degrees; as here, in the present Case, pretending and raising False Titles to the Crown, and thereby dividing the Loyal Subjects thereof into Bloody Feuds and Resolutions; which Practices are dangerous to the Kingdom of England, above all others, &c.* I cannot pass over another remarkable Period in *Fol. 4.* of the same Pamphlet, tho it be some-what less pertinent to the Matter in Hand; *viz. I omitted This* (meaning a *Papist's* intimating the long *Prerogation* in 167 $\frac{1}{2}$. to have been made purely in *Their Favour*) *on purpose, because I look't upon it to be one of their Jesuitical Forgeries, whereby they thought to Encourage Protestants that were but weak-principled, to become their Profelytes; and also to animate and provoke to Rebellion against*
the

the King's Sacred Person, and the Establish'd Government, all those Phantastical Parties, which they by their Busy, Subtle, and Devilish Policies, have torn, rent, and divided from our Communion: A very sad Effect whereof appears in Scotland; I pray God grant, that it may not be as a Shower of Rain, to cause their Seeds of Rebellion to spring or grow up here in England, &c. Now might a great deal fairly be infer'd from these Particulars, thus Solemnly and Circumstantially deliver'd; but I chuse rather to leave every Body to the Freedom of his own Thoughts: especially since they speak plain and home enough, at least to the Purpose I produc'd them, without Comment or Exposition. And truly, when I call to mind the Discouragement these *Sheets* met with, and that the Business of the **Black Box** was brought into Play upon the very Instant of their first appearing abroad, I cannot (for all this *Letter-Man's* Notions) but be strongly of Conceit, that it was from *Them* chiefly, that those necessary

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fary Inquisitions into so flagitious and dangerous a Forgery, took their main Rise. But the Persons interest'd in the Midwifing of them into the World, are Competent Judges of the Value of this Conjecture.

LET. *And, had there been any thing of that Consequence committed to, and entrusted with Him, he is both a Person of that Honour and Courage, as to have dar'd to have Own'd and Justify'd it; and a Gentleman of that Discretion and Wisdom, that he would e're this have acquainted the Parliament with it; to whom both the Cognizance and Decision of a Matter of so Grand Importance, do properly belong.*

ANS. Sir Gilbert lives not amongst so very bad Neighbours, as to stand in need of any such Py-bald Complement; beside that, he has too slender an Opinion of Flashy Pratings, and Grammatical Pedantries, not to look upon all this *Smut* from such a *Fist*, to be a most Scandalous Indignity: Especially knowing so well as
he

he does, that the *Good Word* of *Varlets* is rarely to be purchas'd at a Cheaper Rate, than the Price of a Man's Conscience and Integrity. And then, one would have thought this Supercilious *Sorcerer* might have been pleas'd to look down from Himself, as from the *Devil's-Monument*, and vouchsafe us poor Mortals, under his Feet, a few Shreds of Reasons, why it must be accounted a Crime to believe His *Majesty* in this Case; as also, why *Parliaments* are bound to receive Their Work only of his Worship's Carving. But we shall take due Notice of These, and other Threds of the same woof, elsewhere.

LET. But, in truth, the whole Referring to the *Black Box*, is a meer Romance, purposely invented to Sham and Ridicule the Marriage, which indeed hath no Relation to it: For they who judg'd it Conducible to their present Interest, to have the D. of M's Title to the Crown not only Discredited, but Expos'd, thought it necessary, instead of na-

kedly enquiring whether he be the King's Legitimate, or only Natural Son, to bring upon the Stage a Circumstance no way annexed with it: Supposing that This being found a Fable, the Marriage it self of the K. with the said D's Mother would have undergone the same Censure. But, by what I do perceive, they were mistaken in their Measures; seeing most Men know how to Separate what they endeavour'd so Artificially to have Interwoven: And all that I can apprehend they are like to get by it, is, the Raising a Devil they will not easily Lay.

AN S. This Wretche's very Soul is a Juggle, and his Face all over Brass; he could never else have been Guilty of so Impudent and Poysonous a Prevarication, as to Charge the *Government* with perpetrating those Villanies, which it took such worthy Care to Detect and Punish. But *Here's* a more honest, probable *Summary* of that whole Affair.

A Pack of Beggarly Miscreants,
projecting to Enrich themselves upon
the

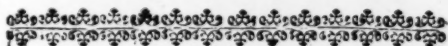
the Spoil of Three Kingdoms, took Advantage of the *Presumptive Heir's* being reputed *Papishly* inclin'd, to try to render Doubtful, or Invert the Legal Descent of the Crown; that so, by involving us in Blood, they might accomplish a Design, which Experience had taught them, was no other way to be Effected. By dark Hints therefore they craftily insinuated, as if the *King* had Legitimate Issue; not intending yet, that the Flam should immediately become Publick; but to keep it in Reserve, and have it in Readiness, when the Season might be capable of it: But it spread beyond Expectation, and soon brought them under a Necessity of disclosing the Bottom of the Secret to some of their over-curious Profelites. Thus came on the Pretense of a *Marriage*, a Writing in a **Black Box**; and all its Appurtenances: And it was taken down so readily, by such as were prepar'd to entertain what they earnestly desir'd to be true; that passing from an Effect of meer Spight,

to a Subject of loose Chat, it at length reach't the *Court*, and *Authority* inquir'd into, and fully Discover'd the *Imposture*; to the Universal Satisfaction of all Honest Men, and Confusion of such as had suffer'd themselves so easily to be Impos'd upon. The *Principals* in the mean time growing desperate, upon this Mortal Blow to their Cause and Credit, their *Familiar* prompted to represent the Business to the Multitude, as a *Popish Contrivance* to disparage a *Just Claim*. Now, This they fore-saw, was to give themselves the Lye, in the Face of the *Sun*; but yet, finding that no other *Pin* would drive, they set upon, and atchiev'd the Exploit in the Manner, and under the Notion here before you.

Thus have you before-hand, what I intend to advance in the Place of that which I attempt to pluck down: And indeed, now it is, that I have laid the Ax to the Root; for all the rest of the *Libel* is meerly *Glaze* and *Vernish* artificially drawn, to make

This

This impious *Abuse* the more colourable. But the very Weather it self, has already walk'd off part of the *Fucus*; and, having done with the *Preface*, I proceed to take to Task the Residue.



S E C T. III.

LET. **F**OR, my Lord, it is, in the First place, apparent, that the Starting of this Business, is to be wholly ascrib'd to the Duke of York, and those under whose Conduct he Regulates Himself, and his Concerns. Had any others been the first Movers in it, you may be sure they would never have ventur'd it before the Council, as it is now influenc'd and moulded; but they would have waited till the Sitting of the Parliament, where they might expect nothing but Impartiality, and Justice.

ANS.

ANS. It is but Natural, that such Arguments as issue from a prejudic'd, and disturb'd Brain, should be of the same Cloudy Guise and Complexion: So that, it ought not to seem strange, that, throughout the whole Course of this *Pamphletier's* Sophistical Illusions, there is a direct Opposition to the common Standard of Reasoning and Thinking; and a continued Thred of the grossest Immoralities and Extravagancies, that can be imagin'd. As, to instance in this *Section*, I dare almost defy Mankind, to produce any one thing less consistent with the Rules of Profit, or the obvious Dictates of a Vulgar and Ordinary Prudence, nay, that comes nearer to down-right Phrensie and Infatuation, than for a Body not only without Cause, but in the Face of most powerful Motives to the contrary, to pluck an old House upon his Head, (as they say) by being himself the Instrument of raising a Suspicion upon the Validity of his own *Title*, when no Moral

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tal else so much as questions it: Or, on the other side, more Consonant to the Principles of Duty, Right, and Honesty, than for Good and Well-meaning Subjects, when there is no *Parliament* in being, to apply themselves to the *Council*, in all Cases that the Law has destin'd to such a Cognizance; and for that Wise Body, again, preparatively to enquire into, or absolutely to determine upon what shall in due manner be so presented: And, in a Matter of this vast Importance more especially, where the least false Step on the one Part, or the other, might amount to an Equivalency with High-Treason.

But now, the better to avoid the Force of such as these, and a little to shade the Transparent Lunacies of his own Assumptions, he is fain to betake himself to the same *Front* that he lately own'd in his Palpable Falsifications, as well in respect of *Addressing*, as *Stating* the *Main* of the present Controversie; giving us thereby sufficiently to understand, that not a
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ny Obligations, how Civil or Sacred so ever, will at all be regarded by such a *Libertine*, when they shall happen to thwart the undue Promotion of his Temporal Ends: And, in truth, that Oaths, Vows, all things binding or commendable, and all the Gifts and Endowments of Art, Nature, and Religion, should become Prostitutely Subservient to Faction and Interest, is no more than an inevitable Result from so Corrupted, or rather Dethron'd a Conscience. So that, I am the less surpriz'd to find him, upon this Hard Pinch, striving with all his might, to reflect Scandal and Obloquy upon the *Two* August Assemblies of the Nation; and to represent the *one* as utterly devoyd of Honesty and Justice, and the *other* as most pronely dispos'd at every end and turn freakishly to gad after the *Hootings* of such Maggot-pated, and Mischievous Incendaries as himself, rather than deliberately to attend the Motions and Informations of sober and considerate Heads: which is an
Insinua-

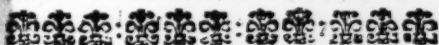
Insinuation so Poysonous and Abominable, that it falls not within the Compass of my slender Stock of *Rhetorick*, effectually to decipher it. For, as to the *Council*, I need say no more of them, than that their Actions praise them in the Gates; nor indeed, is Faith, Honour, Discretion, true Zeal, and inviolable Affection to *Prince* and *Country*, any where more exemplarily Resplendent, than in the Whole, and every Particular *Member* of those *Illustrious Patriots*? Of *Parliaments*, though in themselves they are the most Wholesom, and best-Qualify'd *Constitution* in the known World; yet, some, I must confess, have deserv'd as bad as he speaks of; which is not much to be wonder'd at, if we do but recollect, that the Corruption of the Best Things, is generally the Worst; and that nothing under the *Sun* is compleatly Perfect, or exempt from Injuries and Violations: But then, on the contrary, *others* (and those infinitely the most in number too) by Administring a Comfortable

portable Supply of *Juyce* to the *Root* of the *Tree*, have infus'd new *Strength* and *Vigour* into the whole *Body* of it; secur'd the *Live* and *Fruitful Branches*, by *Lopping* off with an *Axe*, the tainted and rotten ones; by severe and politick *Provisions*, prevented *Harpies* and *Scratch-Owls*, *Clements*, *Ravillacs*, *Muncer's*, and *John's à Leyden*, from *Nesting* in the *Boughs*; and by just and strict *Proceedings* against *Romish Locusts*, and *Fanatick Vermine*, preserv'd the *Leaves* from *Ruin* and *Consumption*: By excluding *Personal Animosities*, *Flateries* to the *People*, by being still the sharper there, where they have taken up an *Odium*, *Fear* least by sparing such and such *Blood*, *They* might be incens'd, *Apprehensions* upon the *Score* of a former *Vehemence*, that there can be no *Safety* while an *Adversary* remains *Alive*; and all such like *Corruptives* of *Judgment*, have caus'd *Justice* to flow like a *Stream*, and *Dispens'd* it with an *Equal* and *Impartial Hand*, that all *Delinquents* might hear and
dread,

dread, and do no more Presumptuously: And by these Temperate and Equitable Methods of acting, have render'd Themselves the Hope of the Good, and Terror of the *wicked*, the Sanctuary of *Friends*, and Scourge of *Enemies*; rais'd a Fence against Foreign Frauds, and Domestick Jars; heal'd up Breaches, bury'd Rancour and Division, discover'd the *Mystery of Iniquity*, solemnly Expos'd the Whore's Face voy'd of Paint, and Hypocrisie, strip't off its demure Look, and affected Paleness; critically distinguish'd betwixt Piety and Pretense, Truth and Error, Zeal and Frenzy, Right and Wrong, Misfortune and Maliciousness, Infirmary and Design; given Religion so much the Upper-Hand of Interest and Imposture, that it was able to recover its Pristine Lustre and Veneration; made Conscience to cease from being accounted a Scorn, Charity Childishness, and Moderation Malignancy; rescu'd Innocence out the Paws of Oppression and Slander, and kept it from

from falling a Sacrifice to the Vindictive, the Desperate, or the Prophanè; preserv'd Obstinate Loyalty from being deem'd a Crime, or a Reproach, caus'd it to be Reverenc'd for its Rags, and Scars; and, in despite of Malice and Clamour, to find Encouragement and Reward: And, in a word, disabled Faction and Bitterness from working any thing to the Offence or Prejudice of the Asserters of the Government, as Establish'd by Law. . And that such again, or rather one Endow'd with a Double Portion of Spirit and Virtue above any of the Former, by a Providential Influence upon the Heart of our Gracious Sovereign, may, in a Seasonable and Auspicious Minute, be sent to Relieve us in these our Great Extremities, is not less Mine, than the Cordial Wish, and Prayer of every truly Loyal, and Peaceable Subject.

SECT.



S E C T. IV.

LET. **I**N the Second Place; *The very Intimation that any besides the D. of Y. doth so much as pretend a Title to the Crown; will operate with many to a Belief; that it is not without Reason that he doth so. For the only way to undeceive Men in a Matter of vain and groundless Credulity, is to neglect and despise them; whereas all Endeavours to convince them, do but contribute to the Strengthening them in their Faith.*

ANS. *First; I do readily grant, that had it not been well fore-seen how agreeable such a Forgery were likely to be to the Humours and Apprehensions of a great many, the World had to this day been to seek both for this Letter it self, and the Occasion of*
C it.

it. But This is an Improvement of a Slip that he was not aware of: and therefore, come we to what he chiefly drives at, and see how he can away with this his New-fashion'd sort of *Reasoning*, when serv'd upon himself. Set the Case then that a Person notoriously known to be destitute of fair Pretensions, should lay open Claim to the *Libellers* Estate; (which, in very deed, consists only of a Thousand or Two of Acres in *Buss-Island*) Would he hold to his Rule, and, for fear of giving his Tenants ground to believe the other's the better Title, sit down quietly under an Abuse, that at one and the same time wounds his Ancestors, Himself, and forebodes Ruine or Embarrassment to his Family and Dependents; or rather, slighting all such Whimsies, by a due Course of Law expose and punish so presumptuous an Impostor? The *Question* answers it self; and yet This is the plain Scope of his Argument: So that, it falls short of the Moral Precept, **Do as you would have**; and yet the utmost

most limit of That, is but the Beginning of Christianity. But it is no new Thing, for *Pharisees* of such a Cut to bind heavy Burthens upon Others, which Themselves will not endure to touch with one of their Fingers.

I grant him, *Secondly*, That This is a Matter of Credulity so absolutely vain and groundless, as hath non-plus'd all his Art and Invention to produce so much as one single Fig-Tree-Leaf for a Covering to its Nakedness. But then I must mind him, that as nothing of this Quality that affects a common Behoof, can in its own Nature be Contemptible; so This particularly, in the Genuine Consequences of it, bears a Face of Danger, that imports no less than the future Peace and Safety of Three Kingdoms: And thus much even by his own Confession too. But, Alas! To behold the whole Nation a second time in a Flame, and brought to the Extremities of Fire and Sword; whole droves of Cobblers, Dray-Men, Ostlers upon Free-

Quarter with us, till some of our Wives and Daughters are forc'd to Prostitute themselves for Bread; our Councils affronted with Armed Troops, Citizens knock't on the Head at their own Doors, like Dogs, for not so much as Barking, Apprentices discharg'd of their Indentures by an Arbitrary Power, Houses rifled, Account-Books examin'd, Servants corrupted to Berray their Masters; our Persons clap't under Hatches, transported or thrown into nasty Dungeons, or (in Mercy perhaps) our Throats cut by the Name of *Popish Dogs* and *Cavaliers*, only for refusing to Renounce *God*, and our Sovereign; *St. Paul's* and *Gresham-Colledge* turn'd into Garrisons, Orders for the Demolishing of our Gates and Chains, and nothing less than Military Execution threatned, unless we Redeem our selves with a Hundred Thousand Pound a Month Contribution toward the perpetuating of our Slavery; our Fathers, or some of our nearest Relations, Citizens, Nobility, Gentry, the
King

King Himself, and His best Friends,
under the Hand of the Common Executioner; our Churches, Erected for the true Worship of *God*, abused, and turn'd into Stables, Pulpits into Juggling-Boxes to Hocus our Wives and Daughters out of their Bodkins and Thimbles, and nothing to be heard there but Heresie and Sedition, to the Dishonour of *Christ*, and Scandal of Religion; the Ministers of *God's* Holy Word cast out of their Livings by Hundreds, their Children expos'd to the wide World to beg their Bread, and not a Friend that dare open his Mouth for them; our Women Announcing with their Hair about their Ears, one half to the Works like *Pioniers*, the other dancing Attendance at a Merciless Committee, to put in Bail perhaps for some Malignant Friend or Husband; Men cover'd with Blood, lost Limbs, mangled Bodies, and with Horror of Conscience over and above; and, in *brief*, our Altars rob'd, our Churches demolish'd, and only the Walls left standing, would question-

less be a most Voluptuous Spectacle to the Blood-shotten-Eyes of a Monster, so entirely lost to all Sense and Impressions of Humanity; and whose only Bus'ness it seems to be, to endeavour to lull asleep, and amuse us, while Matters ripen for such an Issue. But *God* in his Mercy (I trust) will disappoint him!

So that, he must grant me, in the *Third Place*, That to despise them, is neither the *only*, nor the *safest Way* to undeceive the Multitude, under such Circumstances. Nay, in truth, if we well consider it, there can hardly be fancy'd a more injurious Affront, than is the apparent Drift of so vile an Intimation: For, What does it less than bespeak the People of *England* so wayward and perverse, as to be incapable of a Conviction by any other means than such as necessarily fixes all the Reasonable World besides, in a Belief; so Brutish and Irreverent, as to trample upon the Sword of the Magistrate, Dictates of Authority, all Things that bear a Coun-

Countenance of Sacredness or Solemnity in Government, in pursuit of every wand'ring spiteful Rumor, that Hell and its Agents shall set a foot; and pride themselves in nothing more than outrageous Insolences against Principalities and Powers; and, in a word, indulge that Vulgar, but Venomous *Saying*, *The Spanish King commands Hearts, the French, Men, and the English, Devils*. No, no! Let all such Designing Wretches know to their Sorrow, that we have Spirits naturally Just and Generous, like Fire aspiring (as a *Pyramid*) from Low to High, and never resting till Contracted into an Unity at Top: That we want no fresh Experiments to convince us, that the Leaven of the *Pharisees* is Hypocrisie; that Religion flourishes when grafted upon the Olive-Branch, not upon the Sturdy Oak, or a Bar of Iron; that true Zeal consists not in an insulse Fervency against whatever (sensible or insensible) shall chance to thwart a-vain, slovenly, or fantastical Capriche, and

Preference of breaking a *Crucifix* in a Church-Window to a Keeping of the *Fifth Commandment*; but exerts it self in Good Works, in an Universal Charity, in Peaceableness, Loyalty, Meekness, and an Humble Submission to, and Relyance upon the Wisdom and Justice of the Almighty; that a *King* is *God's Vice-gerent* upon Earth, and not *Déposable* upon Account of any Error, or Human Frailty whatsoever, it being most Egregious Partiality to pronounce the same Extravagances in Him a Forfeiture of His Scepter, that our selves are frequently guilty of without the Mulct of a single *Sol*; that Rebellion is a bewitching Sin, that still breeds Us Woe, let the Fortune of the Day fall which way it will, since it is at the Expence of Our Blood and Treasure, that both the War and the Tryumph are supported; beside that, nothing is more usual than for the Victor, as well out of Pride as Politick Expedience, to make his Little-Finger more unsupportable to us, than

than were his Predecessor's Loins ; that tho we may wish for a Good *Prince*, it is our Duty nevertheless to Obey a Wicked *One*, to Correct our own Lives, not attempt to Take away His, nor repine at Providence for sending Him, any more than for sending Diseases, Plagues, Catarrhs, Caterpillars, Blightings, Blastings, and the like, Evil *Kings* being only as Blightings and Blastings of a People that *God* is pleas'd to punish ; that Fear and Jealousie are the Basest of all the Passions, as making one Wretched beforehand out of a Dread of Miseries to come, and have This in common with *Satan* himself, that they are only able to do Hurt ; that Luxury and Wantonness are the Roots of all Mischief, Tools ready whetted for Malice, Ambition, and Discontent, to cut out their Villanous Projects withal ; and that Treachery and Ingratitude are justly detested not by Man only, but by the Divinity it self, never terminate but in Infamy and Reproach, and are capable of turning well-order'd
Com-

Communities into Nests of *wolves* and *Tygers*, *Thieves* and *Robbers*: And that it is not out of Fear, Convenience, or any other sinister Motive, that we persevere to be Modest, Dutyful, True, Temperate, Respectful, and Submissive; but out of an Obstinate and Indelible Love to those respective Virtues themselves.

LET. *what will the People say? But that if the D. of M. were not Legitimate-Heir, would the Papists, by whose Inspirations the D. of Y. governs himself, so effectually bestir themselves, as to desire that an Affair of so vast Importance, and wherein the whole Kingdom is concern'd, should be judg'd of by Twenty or Thirty Persons, who have neither Legislative nor Judicial Power?*

ANS. Here are but as many Scandals as Lines in this Period: For all in a Breath it plainly implies the People to be inordinately greedy of stretching their crazy Sight, upon all occasions, to Things beyond their Sphere, and distrustful of the Powers
that

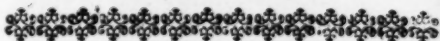
that Providence has placed over them ; the *King*, the Passive Instrument of bad Men's Wills, and accountable to His Subjects even in the most Vital Parts of Sovereignty ; the *Duke of York*, a Designer upon his Brother's Life, nay, upon his Own too, by being actuated by *Papish* Advices ; and the *Privy-Council* incompetent of, and prone to abuse their Authority, unless aw'd into Reason by the Basest of Considerations. Now, most of these Particulars again occurring, and being more fully observ'd upon elsewhere, I shall in this place only re-joyn, *First*, That the People are not at all fond of a fresh Infection with the same Leperous Itch of Curiosity, that has so often created them much Smart, but never yet brought them any Advantage ; and are also better taught, than to give less heed to the Deliberate Asseverations and Assurances of a Just Monarch, especially in a Point that no other Mortal can pretend to so perfect a Knowledge of, than to the putrid Distillations of Canker'd and Poysonous

Poyfounous Skulls: *Secondly*, Let the *Sun* blush to behold so **Hellish** an Indignity and Ingratitude against a *Prince*, than whom never yet has Political Prudence found a greater Master, or more indulgent Patron, and to the Justice of whose Government we are indebted beyond Expression; forasmuch as he hath violently taken none of our Oxen from the Plow, Herds from the Stall, Beds from under the Widdow and Orphan, nor Levy'd Assessments with a strong Hand, and Troops of Horse; but (contrariwise) hath Retriev'd us out of as Miserable a Thraldom and Apostacy, as the Divine Vengeance ever inflicted upon a Rebellious Wantonness, and, while all our Neighbours round about us are groaning under the Sword, Famine, Pestilence, &c. continues to feed us with the Lushious Fruits of Peace and Plenty, even to Satiety and Excess: And then, Does it not naturally consist with his Oath of bearing True Faith and Allegiance to *Charles the Second*, to Revive a Tenet

net that brought *Charles* the First to the Scaffold; a Tenet, that so many Learned and Worthy Champions have successfully taken up the Gantlet against; and that flies directly in the Face of Reason, and the current Practice of all well-regulated States and Kingdoms? *Thirdly*, A slender Acquaintance with the Temper of his *Royal Highnesses* Mind, the Quality of his Retinue for the Generality; but principally of those to whom he lends the readiest Ear, would compleat a solid Confutation of this Frontless Calumny; Beside that, *His Honour* is not capable of a Stain from such Ink, as, by an Invective, might (with all sober Men) in a great Measure, blanch the Credit of a common Prostitute: And, *Lastly*, The *Council* (please him to take Notice) are able to see what they have to do, without the Assistance of *His Spectacles*; and as they pretend not to, so the *Section* following will make out. that in this Case there was no need either of Legislative or Judicial Power. Wherefore,
I shall

I shall conclude This with noting, That not only Dr. *Tongue*, in the Passages above-cited, but the *King's* Witnesses (in no respect more Harmonious than in this) have Unanimously voyc'd it to be a main Branch of the Damnable *Popish Plot*, to Defame and Mis-represent the Person and Proceedings of the Publick Magistrate: And indeed, so many Blemishes and apparent Marks of the *Beast*, does this *Pamphletier* carry about him, that he is as easie to be known from Ten Thousand, as is the *Protestant* Botcher, Cobler, Joyner, Intelligencer, or any other Prick-ear'd Brother of the *Tribe*; nay, as Honest *Jack* himself, when clad in the *Doublet* of *Cleveland's* Cutting out; and, if I mistake not, he is almost as diligent a Frequenter of the *Protestant Conventicle* too, I should have said *Coffee-House*; being undoubtedly a *Jesuite* under a *Puritan-Vizard*, so the more mischievous, and to be beware'd of.

SECT.



S E C T. V.

LET. **A***Nd in the Third place; Should they compass all that they can propose to themselves from the Board; yet it would no way advantage the D. of Y. nor give the least Prejudice to the D. of M. providing his Claim be Just, and can be evidenc'd to be so before the Great Representative of the Nation.*

A N S. The English of This is, That the Council is not a Court of Justice or Record, the Parliament the Supreme; and that the D. of Y. has no Title, provided the D. of M's can be prov'd to be Just. A special piece of News, believe me! Amounting to full as much as if he had said, *when the Sky falls, ye may expect to catch Larks, good People!* And, Is such the Upshot, now, of all this mighty Pother? Must the very Quintessence of Falshood and
De-

Detraction abound, and all Things precious in the Eyes of honest Men be trod under Foot, Authority affronted, the People Hag-ridden, nay, *Logick* it self put to do Penance, for the sake of a meer Proviso, or Possibility? Who could have imagin'd, that ever he would have falln so vastly short of making out the Point he thus vehemently stickles for to be barely Probable, as to be himself the First to confess it a pure Fiction, a perfect Nullity? But indeed, it is impossible long to keep a Disguise: and there is nothing more usual, than for such as thrust themselves at a venture into a Bad Cause, to miscarry and spoyl all, either by Spinning too fine, or often breaking the Thred. And then, What can parallel the Confidence of his interpreting That to be only an Act of particular Pick or Pleasure, which carries the Stamp of so awful a Presence, and manifestly tends to secure Peace and Settlement to Three Kingdoms? But There (Alas!) it is, that the Shooe pinches him: For sure I am,

am, that the *Two* Glorious Subjects of this Dispute; who have so frequently and generously expos'd their Persons for their Countries Good, can never be brought to account any thing a Prejudice or Advantage to their own Private; that shall but in the least promote or obstruct such Publick and Happy Ends.

LET. *For, beyond all peradventure, these Things, howsoever Resolv'd upon and Determin'd at the Council, will be call'd over again by the Parliament: Nor will the Opinion of the Table balance that Great and wise Body to Judge otherwise than as their Conscienses, upon a Hearing of the whole Matter, shall oblige them.*

ANS. O the intolerable Vanity and Impudence of this Paultry Scribler, to conceit (nay, peremptorily assert) that so Grave and Prudent a Senate, could either be guilty of a *Softness* equal to that of Fostering up the Spurious Brat of his own Noddle; or of so much *Injustice*, as to approve of these his Audacious Menaces and In-

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solencies

solencies against Men of untainted Honour and Integrity? Especially, when it is so generally known, that a Wisdom as clear and compleat as Heaven ever vouchsaf'd to sinful Man; a Power absolute and comprehensive to a Moral Possibility; a Resolution firm, frank, and spritely to a Thought; and a Will as free, sound, and just, as falls within the Capacity of Human Corruptions, are the Essential Qualifications of a right-Constituted *English Parliament*. And, Where, now, are those Letters, Papers, and Persons, that he Here all along bears us so often in hand with, and that are the very Ground-work of This his *Paper-Building*, rais'd with untemper'd Mortar? For such a *Parliament* as I'm confident, he could make no handsome Exception to, is Come, and Gone; and not any one Syllable or Circumstance There to be heard of, corresponding with the Tenour of all these Prophetical Bravadoes. Were there any thing of Truth, as there is evident Falsity, in his former Pretences,

ces, either that Considerable Matters relating to this Affair, were reserv'd for such a Hearing, or that the *Papists* bestir'd themselves to have it brought before the *Council*, in order to a Partial Determination; it is not to be imagin'd, that this *Reforming Brother* of the Cut of *Forty-Nine*, would have less effectually labour'd in the Service of his Cause and Credit, and to have it call'd over again by that Great Assembly: Nay, and produc'd such his pretended Proofs before *That* too, or none at all; not only because he could never reasonably hope for any other like fair Opportunity; but forasmuch also, as he stood and look't on, while the *House of Commons* were stabbing the Project to the very Heart, by sundry Clauses and Proviso's in Their *Bill of Exclusion*; and by That particularly and expressly, which adjudges the Crown to descend upon the *Next Protestant Heir*. By which single Passage, they have plainly imply'd their Sense of this Bus'ness to be exactly

the same with That of the *Council*, and consequently (to the unspeakable Content of Good Men) superseded all further Questions and Contrastations concerning it. If he gain-sayes This; let me ask him, How he can make it consist with the Characteristical Note of *Wise Body*, that he fixes upon Them, in all their Debates and Consultations, to prevent a Re-introduction of *Popery*, not to be able to hit upon any nearer or other *Expedient*, than the Extravagant One of depriving a Man of a Right, that, in such a Case, he could not pretend to; than That of destroying the *Father's* (the *D.* of *r's*) Title to the Crown, only to Entaile it upon his *Children*, could they but have found the least Ground to believe, that the *King* has *Legitimate*, as well as *Protestant* Issue? What Confusion of Face (if there be but one Spark of Shame left in him) must he needs lye under, upon so open and undeniable a Detection of his Forgeries? A Detection so palpable, as divests him of all Colour

lour of Excuse ; other than that either his *Protestant Zeal* (with a Pox!) was sunk into his Breeches, when it should have been of use to him, or (which is more probable) that he adheres to his Original Purpose of having the Point decided not by Dint of Argument, but the Length and Sharpness of the Sword. But *God* has already been pleas'd more than once to Defeat, and will in Mercy (I hope) again and again Disappoint all such Blood-thirsty Miscreants!

LET. *And of what little Significancy the Resolves of the Council, though stamped and enforced with the Authority of a King, are to the Imposing a Supreme Ruler upon the Nation, when a Legal Claim lyes in Opposition, we are sufficiently instructed by the Instance of Jane Gray, though a Lady of those Endowments, which few of either Sex ever parallel'd, and Recommended at that time to the Nation, by sundry Motives and Inducements.*

ANS. How Slippery and Dangerous must the Way of *Sin* needs be,

when even this *Frosted* Brute himself cannot make so much as one sure Step in't! It were an endless Work, to recount all his *Tripps*; nay, and an unnecessary One too, they are so obvious: As *here* particularly, he blushes not to couple together Things that are directly Opposite, and bear no other Relation or Affinity, than what the Malice of the Comparer gives them. For, What Natural Resemblance (in the Name of Goodness!) can there be betwixt an Act of a Raw, Minour, and Crazy *Prince*, and a Handful of *Courtiers*, aw'd and influenc'd by a Designing *Minion*, that tended to cut off a True Title, and create and advance a new False One; and That of a *Masculine* Mature, and Experienc'd *Monarch*, in a full and free *Council*, directed (as the *Libeller's* own Soul knows) to a quite contrary End? The Naked Truth of that whole Proceeding being neither more, nor other than This; that as His *Majesty*, out of His abundant Care for the Weal of His People, upon an Information

to Him in *Council*, touching the Conspiracies of the *Papists*, had before been graciously pleased to take the Discovery into Consideration, and ripen and prepare it for the Cognizance of His *Parliament*; so did He again, in the same Place, and upon the same Score too, condescend to enter upon the Examination of a *Second* like Information (Credible and Inobnoxious) of another Design, that, in the Genuine Consequences of it, in Villany and Hellishness, came little short of the Former: and with such unwearyed Diligence, and great Prudence did he pursue the wand'ring Vapour, (tho known by Himself before-hand to be no better) that He quickly reach'd to the Center of it; but without any fuller Certainty or Satisfaction, than what positive Denyals, or vain Conjectures were able to furnish: Wherefore, to the end that He might effectually Lay this Wicked Spirit, Compose the Minds of His Subjects, and Prevent the Effusion of Innocent Blood, He renewed, and

caus'd to be recorded a former Declaration, That He never was Marry'd to any other Woman, than His present Wife *Queen Catharine*. And, Will not This, now, by any Thing that wears but the Shape of a Man, be pronounced an Act entirely devoid of Byass or Interest, highly worthy of a most Equitable, Prudent, Generous, and Indulgent *Prince*, and that will transmit His Memory Sacred and Venerable to future Generations? Only this Son of Perdition (who sucks Poyson out of those *Simples*; from whence others extract Honey) has the Face to compare it to, and represent it as an Attempt to impose a *Supreme Ruler* upon the Nation, in prejudice of a *Legal Claim*. But such monstrous Falsifications are purely Natural to the vile Ends he had in^d Proposition from the Beginning, and that are not to be served upon fairer Terms: And this Consideration may take off from the Surprise, that it might otherwise have been to the Honest Reader, to find him

him bitterly inveighing against, and charging the *Council* (as above) with stretching their Tedder, in the Discussion of a Rumour that requir'd the Administration of an *Oath* indeed, but not the Draught of a single *Mittimus*; much less the Assistance of either *Legislative*, or *Judicial Power*.

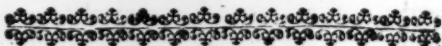
In the Story of the Incomparable, but Unfortunate *Jane Gray*, (render'd such too, by other's Faults rather than her own) we may behold an Ambitious, Crafty, and Dishonest old *Earl*, (*Northumberland*) in outward Profession the most Zealous of *Protestants*, one while with Arguments drawn from Religion, political Expedience, the Love and Humour of the People, and all other plausible Bottoms that could be thought of, cajoling and trepanning Pious and Single-hearted King *Edward the Sixth*, into the Signing of an Instrument to Exalt to the Throne, after his Demize, that good Young Thing, who stood indispensibly oblig'd to manage the Reins of *Rule* in such sort only, as should suit
with

with this *Fox's* own Liking and Directions, in Opposition to the rightful Pretensions of his *Popish* Sister *Mary*; and (if our *Historians* say true) sending him into a better World by *Poyson*, as soon as he had gain'd his Will of him: By and by, basely abandoning all those e're while (in shew at least) beloved Interests, (betray'd by himself to the Block) maulgre all the Tyes and Impulses of Honour, and Nature, to the contrary; and, in hopes of playing a more Advantageous Game, or (however) of saving his own Stake, tacking about to the Adverse, but then more Successful *Party*: And, in conclusion, meeting There (beyond Expectation) with a Reward due to so perfidious a Traytor, declaring himself (upon the Scaffold) to have been all along a *Papist* in Masquerade, to Dye such, and to have hypocritically endu'd the Disguise of a *Protestant* meerly upon the score of Fashion & Convenience; and venting more Spite against the Blessed and Glorious *Reformation*, at the time

time of his Death, than ever (Living) he had express Kindness'd for it, while it made for his Turn so to do.

This Instance now may serve for a *Warning to Some*, (in Contemplation of the dismal Consequences, inseparable from Sacrilegious Attempts, to violate the Sacred Rights of *Crowns*) to beware how they listen to any Temptations (though never so powerful or insinuating) that shall but in the least put forward to any such lewd and perillous Undertakings; since both the Experience of former Ages, and of every Day too, may satisfy, that nothing under the *Sun* is so Treacherous and Corrupt, as the Heart of *Man*; and if a publick Guise of Holyness may in most Cases be justly held suspected, How much more strongly does the Obligation press to take heed of the Glavering Flatteries and Inspirations of such Wily *Machiavilians*, as, in the Course of their Lives, are notoriously known to have finish'd all the Sins of the Compass, and veer'd their Consciences (like a *Weather-Cock*)

Cock) back and forward, this, that, t'other, and every way, according to the various Aspects of Profit or Preferment in the State? And it may be a Word of Advice also to a Great *Many*, to strive no longer to do Evil, that Good may come of it; forasmuch as *Religion* has never yet prosper'd by undue Practices to advance it, and, as the Current of *Justice*, (though for a time, it may be interrupted, yet) at the long run, still prevails, and evermore beats down before it the Authors of any such Obstruction.



S E C T. VI.

LET. **I**N the Fourth Place, *The Method of managing this Affair, gives us more surprize than all the rest; & seems wholly Calculated to intricate Matters, rather than clear them. For Your Lordship, and all others who are Masters of that*

that Sense which you possess, would be ready to conceive, that the main, if not the only, thing enquir'd into, should be, Whether the King was really Married unto *Madam Walters*; and, Whether the *D. of M.* was born in Lawful Wedlock? But instead of this, all the *Mighty Inquisition* hath been, Whether this or that Person heard of a *Black Box*; or of a Contract, referring to the King's Marriage with that *Lady*, committed to the Keeping of *Sir Gilbert Gerard*?

ANS. Having, in the Contumelious Terms you see, disputed the *Counsel's* Power to intermeddle at all in the Affair of the *Black Box*; with what Success, is left to be judg'd: He comes, now, to deliver his Exceptions against the Manner of their doing it; and in the self-same Strain of loathsome Insinuation too. So that, I shall pass over his entitling his pretended *Lordship* to sound Sense, and Morals enough to speak that Honourable *Body* a Pack of *Jugglers*, as
no

no more than a Grain of his Ordinary Allowance; and directly urge, that as the full Scope of the Information it self naturally led to, and terminated in the *Two* Questions that he propounds; so was that which it pointed out the *fairest*, if not the *only way* then in view; nay, or that has yet occur'd, or is ever likely to present it self, whereby to trace the Bus'ness to such a Period: Nor could there have been any the least Warping from it, that would not have born a Squint of Prejudice or Prevention, and look't as suspiciously as an Endeavour to creep or break in at a Window, when the Door of the House is Open. True it is, that the Premises soon gave back, and at length dwindled into meer Smoak; but this was not throw any Fault in the Management, for so they will still do, into what specious Mould soever cast: It being no hard Task to form the *Major* and *Minor* Propositions of a Vicious *Syllogism* into Twenty several Shapes, but abso-

absolutely impossible Regularly to infer from them any other than a *Negative Conclusion*. Nay, and tho the Persons concerned in the Propagation of this Dangerous *Bubble*, had been handled with a Severity proportionable to the Deserts of such Heinous Criminals ; yet would not Reason and Justice at all have suffer'd by the Act, any more than they did in that of Interrogating and Securing the late *Popish Conspirators*, before Argument held upon his *Holyness's* Right to De-throne and Murther *Kings* at Pleasure: For *That*, and His *Majesty's* never having been Married to Mrs. *Walters*, were, and are *Verities* alike undoubted, and out of Proof ; there not being wanting in the Latter (any more than in the Former) a Concurrence of Circumstances, strong enough to convince the veriest *Sceptick* that ever breath'd.

LET. Now, What is all this to the Reality of the Marriage? Seeing it might be Transacted, as most other Marriages

riages are, In Verbis de Presenti, and of which no other Proof can be expected; besides the Testimony of such as were personally present.

ANS. Not a Jot more or less, than what Fair Dealing is to Fraudulent; the Enquiry it self being as Unquestionable, as the Impartial and Authentick Censure that ensu'd upon't, has pronounc'd the Occasion of it voyd of Truth. And indeed, he might with as much Effect have told us, That this pretended Marriage had been Solemniz'd by Bell, Book, and Candle, or any other way whatsoever, as Tranfacted (*possibly*) *in Verbis de Presenti*; for should Courts of Justice come once to Encroach upon (the peculiar Chattels of the *Poets*) *Possibilities*, and admit bare *May be's* to be Conclusive of *Realities*, all the Extravagant *Fables* in *Ovid's Metamorphosis* might justly rise up, and vye for Credit and Certainty with the most probable *Mathematical Theorems*. But This his notable Strain of *Logick* suits well

well enough with the Motley Guise of his Assertion (opposite to a Fundamental *Maxim* in our Law, that disables *Bastards* from Inheriting so much as a Foot of *Land*, and to the general Practice and Institutions of all *Christian Churches* in Europe) That the simple *Taking of one another's Word*, compleats most Marriages: Only, he is to be excus'd, if, in the Delivery of it, he had an Eye to an Apology for his own Mother. As for such as (he sayes) might be *Personally present*, let me tell him, That *Not to Appear*, and *Not to Be*, have constantly been allow'd to be Terms Convertible, and a good *Plea*, at the Bar of *Reason*: Nay, and supposing, (tho not granting) that any such there should be; yet it is clear, they have over-staid their Time, in regard the *Design* will keep cold no longer; as having, upon *Two* several Discussions, been found to lack Seasoning, so undeserving and incapable of the Honour of a *Third*.

E

S E C T.



S E C T. VII.

LET. **T**HE Persons whom they have in this whole Matter, summoned before Them, and Examined, adds to the Suspicion, and encreaseth the Astonishment: For People, who think Congruously to the Subject before them, had conceived, that the main Scrutiny would have been, either in reference to the Assurances given to the Countess of Wemys, concerning the Legitimacy of the D. of M. before she disposed her Daughter in Marriage to him; or else, that all the Examinations relating to this Business, would have been principally confin'd to those who were beyond Sea with the KING, when this Marriage is supposed to have happened. But all This seems to have been industriously wav'd; and, in the Room of these, a few Persons have been brought before, and interrogated by

by the Council, who could never be presumed to have heard otherwise of it; than by way of *Vulgar Tattle*.

ANS. He that, *First*, set Pen to Paper with a direct Intent to abuse and mislead the *Blind*, and pawn his own Cheats upon the *Government*; He that has thus deliberately Blasphem'd God, and His *Anointed*, and whom *Charity* it self would blush to pronounce other than the very *Spirit* of Poyson, Impudence, Malice, Imposture, and Detraction; What heed can reasonably be given to the Insinuations of such a Miscreant? To Those, at least, that run Counter to Common Sense, and are meer Popular Amusements; deriving their Original from Villany and Design? Of This Complexion, now, that is to say, as False as Hell, are those which this *Paragraph* Furnishes; being chiefly produc'd to reflect Scandal upon the *King*, and depending intirely upon the worthless Word of their *Author*, for their Support; which not a Ta-

vern in Town will accept for so much as a Bottle of Wine, and therefore is not to be taken by *Us* in a Case that imports many Millions of Souls. 'Tis as False as Hell, (I say again) both that any kind of Assurances were given to the Countess of *wemys*, concerning the *D.* of *M's Legitimacy*; and that upon any such Prospect or Considerations, she disposed her Daughter in Marriage to him: For the *Cross Barr* in his *Graces* Scutcheon, (said to have been inserted by his own Procurement) his *Banner* and *Crest*, and all the *Habiliments* of his *Stall* at *windsor*, are, and could not but be, Emphatical enough of the Infirmities of his Birth; and it is as undeniable, that the *Dutcheß* (tho a Fine Woman, yet) was not a *Match* befitting the Pretenses of a *Prince of wales*; Nor could any thing less than a Love of *Justice*, have induced His Majesty to deliver the *Truth*, in this Particular, when urg'd to a contrary Proceeding by Temptations of *Profit* and *Power*. There is not more Sincerity

rity in his directing the *Scrutiny* to those that were beyond Sea, when this Marriage is supposed to have happen'd: Because the *Council* (as it is notoriously known) Debated not the Matter in a Clandestine Manner, nor refus'd any Man that appear'd an *Hearing*; nay, which is more, upon a strict Enquiry, not one could be found to *affirm*, but enow to *deny*, this pretended Marriage: So that, (with this *Letter-Man's* good Leave) it ought not to add to the Suspicion, or increase the Astonishment of such as think Congruously to the Subject before them, that That *Honourable Body* should presume to Interrogate only those that they understood to be concern'd in the *Report*, (come they by't how they would) and any way able to speak to the Business; and industriously to wave the Examination of Honest *Nick Na-body*, the Men of *O Brazil*, the *Isle of Pines*, or the *Inchanted-Castle*: The *Being* of such a People, and of any Persons, (at any time beyond Sea) that can safely swear that

the King was, or ever express'd Himself to be Marry'd to any other Woman, than His present Wife, Queen Catherine, standing upon an equal Level with the most Palpable Fictions.

LET. And, as I dare boldly affirm, That there is no one Person, who is accustomed to the Fellowship of the Town, who hath not heard of such a Marriage; So it is uncontrollably known, that there was, in Oliver's Time, a Letter intercepted from the King to the said Lady, when in the Tower, Superscribed, *To His Wife.*

ANS. Should the Confident Assertions of those that are Obnoxious to the most Scandalous Imputations, come once to be allowed Conclusive of Truths; there would be no dealing with my Adversary at such his only, and peculiar Weapons: But since those good Dayes are not likely to come at all, or (at least) not yet; I shall venture to demand his *affidavit*,
in

in proof of the Intercepting of a *Letter* from His *Majesty*, bearing so Extravagant a *Superscription*, as he here pretends; Or rather, let him (if he can) produce the very *Letter* it self: For the Matter requires to be strongly prov'd, and argues the *wretch* to have been mighty intimate with that *Usurper*: nor is it at all improbable (truly) but that he had much more certain Knowledge of what, in those *Dayes*, passed at *London*, than at *Bruxels*: And so far is it from being (as he avers) *Uncontroulably Known*, that I do verily believe, not *Twenty Men* in the Nation ever heard of any such thing, before the Birth of this *Modest Epistle*; nor *Ten*, (excepting even himself also out of the Number) at This Hour, give Credit to it. But now I think on't; he is to be excus'd, if in hopes of doing his Business with the *Multitude*, barely by *Telling* of *Lyes*, he shew'd a little Backwardness to run the Risque of his *Ears*, (and *Neck* too, perhaps) by *Swearing* to them.

LET. *Nor is it unknown with what Homage the King's Party, in England, at That time, paid their Devotion, and Testify'd their Obedience to Her: For, as they Addressed to Her upon the Knee; so by That, and many other Symbols, they declared, that they esteem'd Her for no less than the Lawful Wife of their King and Master.*

ANS. *This Circumstance is full as Untrue, as the Other, but much more Weak; (and indeed, he speaks too slightly of the Royallists, to be one of Them himself, or able to avouch this Flaw upon his own Knowledge) For, What does it Conclude, if the Cavaliers, out of the Profound Veneration they bare to their Sovereign, scrupled not to pay a Respectful Complacency to one that they knew him to have had a Kindness for; especially, at a Juncture, when a different Method of Address would not have made for His Majestie's Service: The Question is not, what they took Her to be? but, What She really was? and*
That

That we have been satisfy'd in, by the only Person that was able to do it: Nor would Ten Thousand such *Negative* Surmizes, at the Bar of *Law* and *Reason*, in the least operate upon the Validity of so Positive and Assertory an *Evidence*.

Were I but capable of making half as Familiar with my *Betters*, as this *Libeller* has done, I might have been infinitely more *Particular* both upon This *Period*, and the whole *Paragraph* too; and made it as much for my Turn to deliver by what Means, and upon what Account, Mrs. *Walters* came to be put into the *Tower*, as He thought it was for His, to be silent in That Point: But my *Aim* is only to vindicate the *Truth*, and not to draw *Personal Reflections* unnecessarily or unjustifiably. What I have said, will (I persuade my self) be found *Fair*, nay, and as *Full* too, as so nice and unpleasing a Subject would bear; but sure I am, (however) that it is in Subserviency to *Honest Ends*: And to manifest how far I am from designing

signing Scandal or Reproach, *Hereby*, I shall Finish this *section* with sub-joining, That as it becomes *Charity* no more than *Discretion*, to upbraid Others with such Imperfections, as by Accident may fall to, or accompany People from their Birth, and which are as little in the *Owner's* Power to help, as it lies in the *Scorner's* Ability to shield his own Person or Issue from falling into a like Disaster; seeing none are so precisely Happy, as not sooner or later, in their Bodies, Minds, Families, or Estates, to receive some *Blemish*, if not an ugly *Mulst*, from the Hand of Fortune, to whose Injuries the best Men are subject during This Life: So that, which to me appears to be the highest Injustice is, the Imputation of *Bastardy*, which in no Nation is look'd upon under so great a Notion of Reproach, as amongst the *English*, tho for the most part (and in This Case more eminently) Recompenc'd with the Richest Endowments; Because, if a Fault, it belongs solely to the

the Parents, and therefore it must needs be the less discernable, through what Organ of *Equity* any more than an ordinary Human Contamination should attach the Child; especially, if we consider, that the single *Security* of a *wife*, (of no great Validity in other Matters) is the chief Authentick Proof we can produce, for the Integrity of those we esteem most *Legitimate*.



S E C T. VIII.

LET. **T**IS of no great Concernment, who is the Immediate, Apparent Heir in the Regal Line, if we do but consider that the Parliament of England hath often provided a Successour to the Government, when the Interest of the Publick hath required it, without the least Regard to such Pundillo's.

ANS.

A N S. Now he begins to Unmask, and to discover what he would be at! Wherefore, it is but meet to Recollect, *First*, That *Magna Charta* (which has been Confirm'd in *Thirty Three Parliaments*, and declar'd to be the *Summary* of all *Antient Laws and Customs*, Consonant to the *Dictates of Nature*, the *Limit* of the *King's Prerogative*, and the *Subject's Liberties*, and so Sacred and Inviolable, that any *Statute or Judgment* Made or Given contrary to the Tenour of it, is to be accounted *ipso facto*, Null and Voyd) Provides, That *No Free-man shall be Disseiz'd of his Free-hold, put by his Inheritance, or Fore-judged of Life or Limb, but by Legal Process, the Laws of the Land, and Judgment of his Peers*; That *The King's Right and Priviledges shall be Preserv'd untouch'd*; and That *The Hereditaryness of this Monarchy shall be so Uncontroulable, that no Attainder by Parliament, or Otherwise, shall hinder the Descent of the Crown, (the King, in Law, being supposed never to Dye)*

Dye) upon the Next of Blood: That the Lords and Commons have not only bound themselves by Act of Parliament, (1 Jac. Cap. 1.) To Defend the True and Lawful Heirs of the King, acknowledged the Undoubted Successors, with their Lives and Fortunes, to the worlds End; but do also Swear, as often as they Convene, or Take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, to Defend all the Priviledges, Rights, and Preheminences of the Crown, (not excepting the Descent in the Right Line) against all Pretenders whatsoever, whether Forreign or Domestick: That King James tells us,, in Pag. 149. of his Defence of the Right of Kings, That In Hereditary Kingdoms (nothing more Certain, nothing more Uncontroulable) the King's Death instantly maketh Liverry and Seizin of the Royalty to His Next Successor: That Sir Edward Coke (usually stiled the Oracle of the Law) affirmeth, both That This Kingdom is a Monarchy Successive by Inherent Birth-Right, of all others the most Absolute, and Perfect Form of Government,

excluding Interregnum's, and with them Infinite Inconveniencies; That All Lands within This Realm were Originally deriv'd from the King; That The Inheritance of our Lord the King is a Direct Dominion, of which none is Author but God alone; and That It is a Law and Custom of Parliament, That no King can Alien the Crown from the Right Heir, tho by Consent of the Lords and Commons; Concluding thus much from the Unanimous Answer of the Lords and Commons in Parliament, to Edward the Third's Message about some Important Matters relating to the Crown; Viz. we cannot Consent to any Thing in Parliament, that shall tend to the Disinheritance of the King, and His Heirs, or to the Prejudice of the Crown, whereunto we are Sworn; and from a Passage in Britton, (Cap. 34.) viz. The Kings of England can Alien nothing of the Right of their Crown, which is not Repealable by their Successors: Nay, and (in a Word) That all the Judges of the Law expressly Resolved, in Calvin's Case, That King

King James's Title to the Crown was Founded upon the *Laws of Nature*; *Viz.* By *Inherent Birth-Right*, and *Descent* from the *Blood-Royal* of This *Realm*.

And Then, That Queen Elizabeth (Fam'd for One of the Best of our Princes, and the Peoples Darling) in the Three and Twentyeth Year of Her Reign, when the House of Commons, First, Order'd to have a Time of Prayer and Humiliation appointed, in the Temple, on Sunday Fortnight after, hinder'd it, and sent them a Message, expressing Her Great Admiration at their Rashness, in Committing such an apparent Contempt of Her express Command, as to put in Execution such an Innovation, without Her Privy, and Pleasure first known. Whereupon the House Submitted, Acknowledg'd the Offence and Contempt, Humbly Supplicated a Remission of it, and Promis'd never again to Commit the like: In the Eight and Twentyeth, She told the Then House of Commons, She was Sorry they meddled with

with Chusing and Returning Knights of the Shire, for Norfolk; That being Impertinent for Them to deal in, and only belonging to the Office and Charge of the Lord Chancellor, From and To Whom the writs Issu'd, and were Return'd: In the Five and Thirtieth, She sent Mr. Wentworth, and Sir Henry Bromley to the Tower, (tho Members of the Then Sitting House of Commons) for presuming to appear in Favour of a Bill for the Entailing of the Succession: In the same Parliament, upon Notice of a Bill, to be put into the House of Commons, against Imprisonment for Refusal of Oaths, and other Proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Courts, She sent for Sir Edward Coke (the Speaker,) and told him, That in Calling That Parliament, She intended them not Leave to intermeddle in Matters of State, or Causes Ecclesiastical; and Charg'd him to acquaint the House, That it was Her Pleasure, that No Bill relating to any such Points, should be Exhibited; and, if Exhibited, Upon his Allegiance, not to suffer it to be Read:

Read: Neither stuck She here; but took Mr. Morrice (Attorney of the Court of Wards, and one of the Promoters of This Bill) out of the Commons House, by a Serjeant at Arms, and Committed him to Prison; smartly Returning to the Commons, Supplicating for his Liberty, That they did him more Hurt than Good, by That their Address; For She would not endure to be question'd in what She did of Her Royal Authority; nor that They should pry into Matters of that Nature: In the Thirty-Ninth, She not only told the Commons, That Their Privilege was Yea and No; and that She would Not allow of any Debates There, toward the Reforming of the Church, or Transforming the Common-Wealth; but, at the End of That Session, Rejected Forty-Eight Bills, that had Pass'd Both Houses: Nor was She wanting to Suppress the Insolence of Bell, Mountson, and divers other Members of the Lower-House, (who, as Plenipotentiaries (forsooth) of the whole Kingdom, undertook to Decide and

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Settle

Settle the Succession,) by a Prince-like Speech in the Parliament; We see (sayes this Noble Heroina) that your whole House may be divided into Four sorts; for some have been Plotters and Authors; some Actors, who with smooth words have perswaded; some have Consented, being seduc'd with those smooth words; and some again, have been Silent, admiring such Boldness. For Our Part, whether we see such a Parliament again, we know not; but for You, take heed lest you Provoke your Prince's Patience: Her Declaration also for assisting the Nether-Lands (Printed Anno 1585.) begins Thus; Although Kings, and Sovereign Princes, owing their Homage and Service only to Almighty God, the King of all Kings, in That Respect are not bound to yield Account, or render a Reason of Their Actions, to any other but God Their Sovereign; and though, among the most Antient, and Christian Monarchs, the same Lord God hath committed unto Us the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of England, which we Hold Immediately of the same Almighty God,

GOD, and thereby Account only to His Divine Majesty; yet we are, notwithstanding This Our Prerogative, moved to Declare, &c.

King James likewise, sent This Letter, from New-Market, to Sir Thomas Richardson, (Speaker of the House of Commons, whom He perceiv'd to be making too Familiar with His Prerogative); we have heard to Our Grief, that Our Distance from the Parliament, caused by Our Indisposition of Health, hath embolden'd some Fiery and Popular Spirits of the Lower-House, to Debate Matters above their Capacity, to Our Dishonour, and Breach of Prerogative-Royal. These are therefore to Command you, to make known to Them, that none here-after shall presume to meddle with Any Thing concerning the Government, or Matters of State, with Our Son's Match with the Daughter of Spain, nor to touch the Honour of That King, or any other Our Friends and Confederates; nor with any Man's Particulars, which have their due Motion in any of Our Courts of Justice.

*And whereas they have sent a Message to Sir Edward Sandys, to know the Reasons of his late Restraint; you shall Resolve Them, it was not for any Misdemeanour of his in Parliament: But, to put Them out of Doubt of any Question, here-after, of that Nature; We think Our Self very free and Able to Punish any Man's Misdemeanors in Parliament, as well Sitting there, as after: which We mean not to spare here-after, upon any Occasion of any Man's. And if They have touch'd any Point, which we have here Forbidden, in any Petition of theirs, which is to be sent to Us; tell Them, (except They Reform it) We will not Deign the Hearing or Answering of it, December 3. 1621. Nor did He take Them up less roundly in another Letter, from the same Place, for calling Their Priviledges Their Antient and Undoubted Inheritance: Most Priviledges of Parliament (sayes He) grew from Precedents; which shews rather a Toleration, than an Inheritance; wherefore, We cannot allow of the Stile, calling them your Antient
and*

and Undoubted Right and Inheritance; but could rather have wish'd that you had said, Those Priviledges were derived from the Grace and Permission of Our Ancestors, and Us. — We cannot with Patience endure Our Subjects to use such Anti-monarchical Words, concerning their Liberties, except They subjoin, that they Were Granted unto Them by the Grace and Favour of Our Predecessors, &c.

So that, if Edward the Fourth, Henry the Seventh, Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, and King James, enjoy'd the Crown, tho all Excluded by Acts of Parliament: If, according to the Protestation made to the Late King, upon His Passing the Petition of Right; VIZ. The Two Houses have no Power to hurt or diminish the Royal Prerogative, as being Sworn to Maintain and Defend it, to their Uttermost: If the Laws of God, and Nature, be absolutely Immutable; and upon Them, and the Common Principles of all Hereditary Kingdoms, the Fundamental Customs and Constitutions of This Nation are

Founded ; and by all *These*, by *Inherent Birth-Right*, and *Undoubted Succession*, the *Crown* Descends upon the *Next Heir* of the *Blood-Royal*, (any *Act*, *Crime*, or *Attainder* of *Treason* notwithstanding) at the *Instant* of *Time* that the *Possessor* does not so much *Dye*, as by a *State-Metempsychosis* *Transmit* into his *Nostrils*, his *Body*, his *Life*, his *Breath*, his *Soul*, I may say ; as the *Citations* out of our most *Eminent Lawyers*, and the *Acts* and *Declarations* (as above) of divers *Parliaments*, that were neither overaw'd by any *Prevailing Faction*, *Circumvented* by *Designing Intriguers*, nor vainly flatter'd themselves with the *Idle Conceit* of an *Omnipotent Power*, to *Create* and *Annihilate Kings* ; but wholly actuated by the *Love of Truth*, and a *Sense of Loyalty*, to a *Recognition* of their *Natural Sovereign* ; do abundantly satisfy : This *Creature* may present the *Matter* as a bare *Punctillo*, and of *no Concernment*, or in what other *Degrading Shape* he lists ; but, while there is a *God* in *Heaven*,

or

or Right or Wrong upon Earth, will never be able (so much it is beyond the Wit of Man) to Demonstrate that the *King*, and *Parliament Together*, perhaps; but however, that the *People*, (Collectively or Representative-ly) [tho by *Club-Law*, (which, to such as fear neither *God* nor *Man*, is *Lex Legum*, and the Sole Rule of their Actions) they may sometimes not only Exclude the *Lawful Heir*, but also Depose the *Possessor* of the *Crown*; yet] can, with Justice, or a Good Conscience, alter the *Succession*, debar either the *One*, or the *Other*, from Their Right, or give any better Title to the *Sovereignty*, than the Late *Usurper* had.

And again; If the fore-going Particulars concerning *Queen Elizabeth*, and *King James*, be Authentical; as *Camden*, *Howel*, *Filmer*, *Sanderson*, &c. do aver: If, before the Time of *Henry the Third*, the *Great Council* or *Parliament*, (as stiled after the *Conquest*) [Whereunto, from all Parts of the Kingdom, resorted Confused Multitudes,

titudes, by Themselves, or their Attorneys or Lawyers; There, by Petition, to present their Grievances; (the *Lords* still appointing a Select Number of their Members, (the Ground of our *Committees* at this Day) to Peruse and Report what of those *Petitions* were fit for the Cognizance of the whole *House*) and, *Bare-headed*, Attended for, and Consented to their Determinations, in such sort as now do *Plaintiffs* and *Defendants*, to the Judges Resolutions, in the Courts of *Westminster-Hall*: This *Practice*, and that *Passage*, To this *Curia Magna*, repair'd the *Princes*, *Lords*, *Chief Men*, and *Lawyers*, from all *Quarters* of the *Realm*; as *Spelman*, *Houeden*, *Malmsbury*, *Matthew Paris*, &c. have it; in After-Ages, giving Rise also to the Mistake, (that *Bacon*, *Petyte*, &c. have so lately split upon) as if those *Lawyers*, who in truth were only the Attorneys, and Pleaders of their Clients Causes, made a Part of this *Great Council*,] was Composed only of the *Lords Spiritual* and *Temporal*, by the King's

King's writ, and in His Presence, Conven'd, and Assembl'd: And if That Prince, to Reduce such a *Chaos* to a Regular Meeting, and Clip the Wings of His Disloyal and Ambitious *Barons*, (who had severely handled his Father *John*, as well as Himself, and whose Power was Then grown so Exorbitant, as, without such a *due poising*, to threaten the Ruin of *Monarchy* it self, in this Nation) perfected the Project of the *First Harry*, (who, to support his Usurpation against his Elder Brother *Robert*, sought to curry Favour with the People, by some inconsiderable Condescensions of the like quality) by Ordering that every *Shire* and *Burrough* in the Land, should send Two *Knights*, and Two *Burgesses*, (in the Choice whereof no Man was Refused a Voice, till the *Statute* of 8 *Hen.* 6. limited the Election to *Free-Holders only*) to Serve as *Attorneys* for all the Rest; And invested this *New Constitution* with a Power not much unlike that of the *Tribunes* of the People among the *Romans*, without whose

Consent

Consent nothing could be Enacted, by the *Senate*, to the Prejudice of the *Commonalty*; with a Right to the *First Motions* of *Grants*, and Aids or Subsidies, to Pray and Receive such Redress of Grievances, as the *King*, with the Advice of His *Barons*, should vouchsafe; and to signify as much to the Respective Places for which they Serv'd, because *Printing* was not as yet found out, and *Promulgation* of Absolute Necessity to the Obligation of all Positive Sanctions; and likewise, with such other Priviledges, as might be sufficient to Compleat the *Libration*, and Answer the Ends he propounded in their Establishment; The *House of Lords* still continuing to be the *Supreme Court* of *Judicature*, and the *Ultimate Decider* of *Appeals*; where, according to their *First Institution*, no *Original Cause* was to take Place: It is but fit, that every *House of Commons* should, in their Actings, have some small Regard, at least, to the *Primary Intent* of their *Institution*, [Which even the very *Writ* of
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Summons it self, expresse to be simply to *Consent to, and Execute what the King, with the Advice of the Lords, shall Decree*; Thereby bespeaking them entirely Dependent upon the *Prince's* Pleasure, and, *ex Instituto*, incapable of Intermeddling, without His Leave, in any thing, but what Himself shall from time to time Propose] and Cultivate the Peaceable Politicks of our Happy Ancestors, by Modesty and Moderation in Speech and Act; that so They neither Forfeit the Trust Reposed in Them by Their *Deputers*, [For tho by a Fiction in Law, they are Reputed the *Representative Body* of the *People of England*, because the *King* commonly takes Them for such, yet really They Represent not the *Tenth Part* of the People; and therefore, whensoever They proceed contrary to *Law*, or endeavour to Act any thing without the *Royal Assent*, *eo ipso*, They forfeit the Benefit of this Fiction in *Law*, and are no longer to be Reputed the *Peoples Representatives*] nor Ungratefully, or Disrespectfully, treat

treat the *Fountain* of That Grace and Bounty, where-from they Originally derived what-ever Power or Priviledge they can any way pretend to: *Qui dat esse, datus Consequentiam ad Esse.* So much was Sir Orlando Bridgman (after *Lord-Keeper*) in the Right, when, upon the Tryal of the *Regicides*, he said; *True it is, we have as great Liberties, as any People in the world; but let us own them where they are due; we have them by the Concession of our Princes.*

LET. *They who prefer'd William Rufus, and Henry the First, to Robert; (tho Eldest Son of William the Conquerour) what can They not do, when weighty Reasons and Causes influence them unto it?*

ANS. *They who Fought, Imprison'd, Depos'd, and Murther'd Charles the First, Banish'd & Abjured Charles the Second, and the whole Line of the Stewarts; made a Foot-Ball of the Crown, turn'd the Government into Aristocracy, Democracy, Anarchy; and*
at

at length Exalted, and Swore Allegiance to the *Monstrous Cromwel*; What can they not do, when Weighty Reasons and Causes Influence them to it? And then, What *Choice* or *Preference* was there, in the Cases he urges, more than *This*; That the Two *Younger Brothers*, taking Advantage of the *Elder's* being in the *Holy Land*, at the Time of their *Father's* Death, made a Party Competent to Seat them in the Throne, Successively; and afterward, by Force and Fraud, maintain'd what by Craft and Violence they had thus Usurp'd?

LET. *And they who advanc'd Stephen before Maud, and John before his Eldest Brother's Son; can they not, when the Safety of the Kingdom requireth it, put the Scepter into whose hands they please?*

ANS. The same Power that put the Scepter into *Noll's* Hand, or into *William Rufus's*, gave it also to *These*; and may undoubtedly, should a like oppor-

opportunity happen again, dispose of it (as before) to such as will have it in spite of them: For these were not *Legal Parliaments*, [There being no *Legal Kings* in place, to Assemble any such; nor can it be alledg'd, that the *Two Houses* (the *People*, or what you will) are capable of turning an *Usurper* into a *Lawful Prince*, without running upon This *Dilemma*, viz. Either these *Statute-Kings*, who by *Birth* have no Title to the *Crown*, are *True Kings* before They are Voted such, or not; if They be, They derive no Power from *Thence*, nor owe (as is pretended) Their Sovereignty to the *People*; if not, They have no Power to Summon *Parliaments*; it being as Preposterous and Unreasonable, that an *Unlawful King* should Summon a *Lawful Parliament*, as that an *Unlawful Parliament* should make a *Lawful King*: So that, what *Parliaments* were heretofore Summon'd by these *Statute-Kings*, were Null and Voyd from the Beginning; for That *Great Body* cannot Lawfully Meet, unless Lawfully Sum-

Summon'd; nor can it be Lawfully Summon'd, but by a Lawful King, much less Confer any Sovereign Power, or Enact any Firm Laws, that shall not need an After-Confirmation by Legal Parliaments; all the Acts of Hen. 4. H. 5. and H. 6. grounded upon the Statute for Deposing King Richard the Second, being deemed of no Force, until expressly Confirm'd by Ed. 4. in the same Manner as His Sacred Majesty, that Now is, Ratisfy'd the Judicial Proceedings of the Late Usurpation: Nor indeed, has ever any Prince, as yet, pretended to Claim the Crown, in Parliament, upon any other Score, than that of Birth-Right.] but only Traiterous Routs of Abettors of as great Traitors as themselves, in their Invasions, and Usurpations upon the Rights of Others.

Neither is Story silent, as to the Consequences of these Unjust Practices: Valiant Stephen, after much Blood-shed, being forc'd (it tells us) to Destroy the Pretenses of His Line, and become Tenant for Life, for the Crown.

Crown, to Maud's Son Henry (afterward the Second of That Name;) and John [whose Unfortunate Government should, in my Opinion, rather terrify from Countenancing Usurpations for the Future, than give any Encouragement to bring so unhappy a Prince upon the Stage, to mind all sober Men of the Dismal Effects inseparable from the People's Temerity in intermeddling in so nice a Poynt as that *Noli me Tangere* of the Succession of the Crown] perpetually engaged in Civil Broyls, and coming to an *Untimely End*, (being poyson'd by a Monk) after all; tho by the True Heir's Dying without Issue, long before him, his *Usurpation* at last became a *Lawful Sovereignty*. And we do not Read, that the like Proceedings ever terminated in any better *Event*; for, Who would not have thought, that the Power and Policy of H. 4. and the Prodigious Successes of H. 5. had Unquestionably ensur'd the Crown to H. 6? And yet Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, no sooner (Anno 1460.) Claim'd in

in *Parliament*, the Crowns of *England* and *France*, as being *Next Heir* to *Lionel Duke of Clarence*, Elder Brother to *John of Gaunt*, of whom descended the House of *Lancaster*; but, notwithstanding the *Act* entailing it upon This *Henry's Grand-Father*, [The sayd Duke unanswerably Replying to That Pretense, That if *King Henry the Fourth* might have obtained the said Crown of *England* and *France* by Title of Inheritance, Descent, or Succession; he neither needed, nor would have desired, or made them to be granted to him, in Such-wise as they be, by That *Act*; which (sayes he) taketh no place, neither is of any Force, or Effect against Him that is Right Inheritor of the said Crowns; as accordeth with the Laws of God, and all Natural Laws. Rot. Parl. 36. and 6. N. 10. &c.] his Title was, by the same *Parliament*, expressly Recogniz'd and Declar'd to be Good, True, Just, Lawful and Sufficient: [As, upon his Death soon after, was also in full *Parliament*, (the same Year) that of his Eldest Son Ed-

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ward,

ward, in these words ; *Knowing also certainly, and without Doubt, and Ambiguity, that by God's Law, and Law of Nature, He (i. e. K. Ed. 4.) and none other, is, and ought to be True, Right-wise, and Natural, Liege and Sovereign Lord ; And that he was, in Right, from the Death of the said Noble and Famous Prince his Father, very Just King of the same Realm of England. Rot. Parl. 1. Ed. 4. N. 8. &c.] And that Innocent, Unfortunate Prince forc'd to expiate, with his Blood, for the Violations of his Progenitors. So True is that known Hexameter*

*In Male quæstis vix gaudet Tertius
Hæres.*

LET. *Nor hath Bastardy it self been an Obstruction to the Conferring the Crown upon a Person, provided all Things else have Corresponded with the Desires and Humours of the People : For not only Athelstan (the Great Saxon King) was such, but Queen Mary or Queen Elizabeth must be so Blazoned ;*
and

and yet all Three were Exalted to the Regal Throne: And Two of Them not only approved Themselves worthy of the Trust Reposed in Them; but have Consigned down that Stock of Fame and Credit, which, few attaining unto, hath left a Reproach upon most Princes that Succeeded Them.

ANS. What does he tell us of The Humours and Desires of the People? Will a Popular Caprice warrant Unjust Acts? If Athelstan was a Bastard, the Fundamental Constitutions of the Kingdom pronounce Him an Usurper: [Nor can a Submission to His Tyranny be constru'd a Consenting to His Election, without admitting either that such a Consent can give no Legal Title, or that it is impossible for any Man to Usurp the Crown; And so Old Noll must come to be acknowledg'd to have been the True and Lawful Governour of these Three Nations; and all those that made Parties against him, on His Majesty's Behalf, Traitors and Rebels] But Sir Winston Churchill, in his Divi

Britannici, avouches for his *Legitimacy*; and for the Truth of This Memorable Story too; that he endanger'd the Loss of his Kingdom, by committing, out of *Jealousy of State*, his Brother *Edwyn* to the Mercy of the Seas, in a Vessel without Tackle: Of which, when he was put in mind, by his *Cup-Bearer's* unwittingly saying, upon recovering with One Foot the slip of the Other, See how One Brother helps Another; He cry'd out, *Ah Traitor! Livest thou to upbraid me with that Sin and Folly, whereof thy Self wast the Author?* and thereupon, caus'd him to be immediately Strangled in his Presence.

As to the *Queens*, *Mary* and *Elizabeth*; had he but studied *Coke* half as much as he has done *Buchanan*, he might have found the *Common-Law*, (Their Circumstances consider'd) allowing of the *Validity* of Both Their *Titles*; nay, and perhaps the *Canon* too. But This is not my Business, at this time, to make out. And then, his *Complement* upon the *Latter*, is, (rightly understood) no other than
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an Expression of the extraordinary Kindness he has for the *Royal Family*.

LET. Even Henry the Seventh, (*from whom Our King derives His Title, and Right of Succession*) sprung from a Bastard; who had nothing to render Him capable to convey a Claim to His Posterity, but that He was made Legitimate, by Parliament.

ANS. This is an Insinuation equally Malicious and Disingenuous. Henry the Seventh (as well as his Predecessor Richard the Third) had all that a Parliament (as he calls it) could give him, to strengthen his Title; and yet all was too little, for he was still as much an Usurper as was that Other Monster. Only here's the difference; that by prudently Marrying the Lady Elizabeth, Eldest Daughter to Edward the Fourth and consequently Immediate Heiress of the Crown, this Henry (after a Sort) Legitimated his Domination: And so,

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tho he had no good *Title* of himself, yet he left an *Unquestionable* One; beyond *That* of any *Issue* that *Queen Mary* might have had by *Philip of Spain*. Nor was it to be accounted any *Misfortune*, (perhaps) that he did not so long Survive his *Queen*, as till his *Children* were out of their *Minority*; for so *Forward* a *Prince* as was his Son and Successor, *Henry the Eighth*, wou'd, in all *probability*, have given him to understand to his Grief, that he conceiv'd himself Capable of Swaying the *English Scepter*, without the Assistance of a *Guardian*. And thus have I sufficiently Explained (I hope) what this *Sophister* (to amuse the *People*) so industriously sought to Intricate.

But to what Purpose now, serve all the *Examples* thus Confidently produc'd? [Is it not Madness to the Highest Degree, to urge such *Acts* and *Instances*, for *Precedents* for *Us* to walk by, as were never held of greater Force or Validity, than the *Wild Ordinances* of the *Rump-Parliament*? What, tho *Harry the Eighth* (as That
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Gang so often tell us) made a *Stalking-Horse* of his *Parliaments*, to serve his own Private Ends, by a Limiting and Altering the *Succession*? For either those *Extravagant Statutes* were Good in Law and Obligatory, or they were not; if not, then *Acts of Parliament*, contrary to the *Right of Succession*, are (confessedly) Null and Voyd in Law; if they were, by what Authority was the *House of Suffolk* (to which those *Acts* gave away the *Crown*) Excluded, or *King James* Admitted, notwithstanding the many *Statutes* made against Him? Or, How can we clear our *Ancestors* from manifest *Perjury*, in solemnly swearing to maintain those *Statutes*; unless we conclude they were *Illegal* and *Voyd* from the Beginning, as being notoriously Repugnant to all *Laws*, *Humane* and *Divine*; and consequently, not fit to be observ'd; because *what is ill Sworn, is worse Kept.*] For, the *Question* is not, Here, whether de facto the *Succession* Has been Alter'd, and the *Government* Chang'd; but, whether, without Violation of Justice, and

the Principles of Right Reason, it May be so. No Man ever doubted, but Power, Rebellion, and Faction, with the Concurrence of Timorous and Easy Princes, did often turn Things into Tragical Confusions, and Un-hinge the whole Frame of the Government: But, far be it from Us, to ground the Lawfulness of our Actions upon so weak a Topick, as That of Example; Far be it from Us to think, that, because, by the Treasons and Conspiracies of Ambitious and Designing Persons, the Crown was now and then Transferr'd from One Family to Another, therefore we may safely do the like; when the Occasions of such Innovations are perfectly taken away, not only by the Conjunction of the white and Red Roses, but also, by the Concentring of the Blood Royal of the Three Kingdoms, in the Person of our Present Monarch. To Attempt This, were to bring upon the People all the Miseries to which the Unsteady Course of Human Affairs can subject them: For, where a Gap is once open'd

pen'd to *Ambition*, and *Snatchings* one from another, the most Bloody Com-motions imaginable do usually suc-ceed ; in which, *Necessity* obliging the several Parties to the Practice of Pro-miscuous Violences, Depredations, and Slaughters ; the *Multitude*, at length, are weary'd with the Cruelties and Calamities of *war*, and so, to Pur-chase *Peace* at any Rate, not seldom surrender their *Liberties* at the Foot of the *Conqueror*, and make the Uni-versal Desolation of their *Country*, its Grave: So Terrible an *Instance* of *This* Nature our *Late Troubles* furnish, that none' surely, but such are Des-tin'd to *Slavery*, or Betrayers of the *English Liberties*, will, a Second Time, venture upon the like *Transgressions*. In *Brief*, no *Crime* can be perpetra-ted, no *Usurpation* introduc'd, no *In-dignity* offer'd even to *Heaven* it self, if Their being Subsequent to a like Practice of *Former Ages*, must be al-low'd for Competent, to free such E-normities from Guilt. *Rebellion* is as Antient as the *Creation* ; it, *First*, Di-vided

vided the Court of Heaven, and deprived *Lucifer*, and his *Accomplices*, of their Glory; and, *Then*, threw *Man*, out of the *Garden of Eden*, and the State of *Innocence*, into a Rough Tract of the *Earth*, and yet Rougher Anguishes and Perplexities of *Sin*: An Obedience to *God's* Command, to *Increase and Multiply*, was not long paid; but *One* of the *Few Inhabitants* of the *World* (and he the most *Harmless* too) fell a Sacrifice to his *Brother's* Envy, and *Maker's* Affection: *Idolatry* (the *Jews* only Excepted) was the *Common worship* of Mankind: And, what-ever *Species* of *Christianity* might, at First, be Planted in This *Island*; yet certain it is, that *Popery* was the *Legal and Known Religion*, Universally Embrac'd by the People: But *God* forbid, we should, Now, conclude *Rebellion, Murther, Idolatry, and Popery*, to be all *Lawful*, meerly because we find Times of Old to be Memorable for such *Impieties*: It being no Plea in *Divinity*, to alledge, as an *Excuse*, the *Prescription* which *Sin* has gained over Us,

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S E C T. IX.

LET. **S**eventhly, *The Councel had done a Thing grateful to the Nation, and Consonant to their Oaths and Duty; if, instead of Attempting to Establish the Duke of York, as Heir Apparent, They had Examined, whether, notwithstanding his Affinity to the King, he hath not, by manifold Treasons against the Person of His Majesty, as well as against the Government, Forfeited his Life to Justice, and made himself obnoxious to a Scaffold, while he is pretending to a Throne. He is yet a Subject, and Accountable for the Breach of the Laws; and why his Crimes should find Shelter in his Greatness, I know not.*

ANS. I have already been so Express, as to Councel's Proceeding upon

on This Affair ; that it were needless to dilate much further in their Vindication : So that, in Return to this Compound of *Scandal* and *Tautology*, it may suffice to Observe, *First* ; That, had there been (as there was not) any *Legal Charge* There Exhibited against the *Duke of York* ; yet, if (as he sayes) They have neither *Legislative*, nor *Judicial Power*, they were as little able to Question him, upon it, for Life ; as ever they designed to establish him *More Heir Apparent*, than all Men know, and *Parliaments* themselves have frequently acknowledg'd him to be : *Secondly*, That This *Libeller*, having long since made Notorious Ship-Wrack of his Own *Conscience* and *Loyalty*, is altogether unfit to direct or instruct Others, in such Particulars of their Duty ; and cannot fairly presume that his *Blackest Smutt* will do any sort of prejudice to the most *Glorious Character* and *Unblemish'd Reputation* in the World : And *Lastly* ; That if, by thus villanously presenting his *R. H.* for an *Enemy* to the *State*, and
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an *Object* of the *People's Jealousy*, he did not propose to himself, (computing upon the *Means*, whereby was wrought the *Tragical Exit* of the Late Duke of *Buckingham*) to reach That *Life* by *Tumult* or *Treachery*, which the *Law* Defends; he could not handsomely doubt, but that the *Duke's Innocence*, (without his *Greatness*) is Competent to Protect him against *Calumny* and *Slander*; or so long, at least, as till Persons can be found, to *Depose* Matter enough to ground a Judicial Process upon.

LET. 'Tis in vain to pretend to the Right of Succession, when his Treasons were a Self-Deposition, were he Actually Repugnant. Whosoever Conspires against any one Part of the Constitution, forfeits all he can Claim by any Other Branch of it. To be Accessary to a Plot for the Destruction of the People, is to obdicate himself from all Legal Pretences of Reigning over them.

ANS. Here you have, with the Sleight

Sleight of a *Hocus*, the *Argument* transferr'd from a *King* in *Possibility*, to a *King* *Actually* *Regnant*; and as *Formal* a *Plea* for the *Sovereignty* of the *People*, as ever *Jesuit* yet *Pen'd* for the *Superiority* of his *Master* the *Pope*: And in *Truth*, it was from That *Quiver*, that all these *Levelling* and *Hellish* *Principles* and *Positions* were *Originally* shot; for his *Holyness*, at the *Council* of *Constance*, pressing hard for an *Unaccountableness*, and other dangerous *Licences*; They were fain to allow him to be *Greater*, than any *One Particular Member*, but *Inferior* to the *whole Body*; with sundry other *Prerogatives*, that no *Pope* before, had ever the *Confidence* to *Ask*, or *Council* to *Give*: Now *John Major*, (*Buchanan's Tutor*) being a mighty *Stickler* for these *Ecclesiastical Pre-eminences*; his *Docile Scholar*, upon a *Pick* taken up against the *Court of Scotland*, cleverly *Transplanted* all his *Master's Extravagant Tenets*, from the *Church*, into the *State*; and in his *Dialogue* concerning the *Rights* of the *Scottish Realm*,

Realm, (from whence This *Pamphletiere*, and all our *Demagogues*, do generally fetch their *Anti-Monarchical Theſes*) Invested the *Multitude* with all the the *Authorities* over their *Princes*, that the *Other* had placed in the *Bishop* of *Rome*. And This is the true Extraction of Those, that are now under Cognizance. Now, the Transition from the *Heir* to the *Possessor*, is so Natural, and their Interests so absolutely One and the Same, that what-ever operates to the Prejudice of the *One*, must needs sensibly affect the *Other*: It being evident, that they have both the *Same Right*, and differ only in the Time of their Enjoying it; even as an *Embrio* has as much Right to Life, as a *Child already Born*; neither is it less *Murder*, in the Sight of *God*, or against the Law of *Nature*, to procure *Abortion* in the *One*, than to *Take away the Life of the Other*. But as to the Nature of *This Government*, in General; ample Satisfaction may be had in *Stamford, Dyer, Crompton, and Coke*, who

who are Unanimous, that the *King is the Fountain of Justice*, and that the *Supreme Power is Solely, Peculiarly, and Incommunicably in His Hand*: And for these Positions, in Particular; Bishop *Maxwel*, *Diggs*, *Admirable Filmer*, (nay, and the *Preceding Section* too, by *Anticipation*) have so expressly handled, and substantially confuted them, that it may suffice, only to refer *Thither* for Content. So that, to these Flagitious and Treasonous Absurdities, I shall only oppose a Passage or Two out of a less Common Author, (*Bracton*) who is worthily Famous for his Knowledge in the *Civil and Common-Law*,) and so have done with them. *The King* (says he) *has Supreme Power in all Civil Causes, and is* (*Super omnes*) *over all Persons; over the Body Politick; All Jurisdictions are in Him; The Material Sword of Right belongs to Him; and whatsoever conduces to Peace; that the People committed to his Charge, may live peaceable and quiet Lives: The Power of Parliaments, and of Holding Assizes, and Punishing*

nishing Delinquents, is derived from Him: For Laws were vainly Enacted, if there were not some Body Enabled to Protect Us, by Defending Them. It is not possible to speak more Home, than he has done in the Fifth Paragraph; for There he tells us, All are under the King, and the King only under God; he hath no Equal in his Realm, because Then, he could not Command All; forasmuch as amongst Equals there can be no Empire: Therefore, much less are any His Superiours; or can Challenge greater Power; because, in such a Case, He would be under His Subjects: The King is not under Man; nor can the People, under any Notion, or upon any Pretext whatsoever, call Him to an Account, or any way Injure Him, let His Crimes be never so Great; because it is to God alone, that He must Stand or Fall; and it ought to be accounted Punishment sufficient, to have the Almighty for an Avenger. If He will not hearken to our Just and Reasonable Desires, we cannot help it: For His Deeds are not to be questioned; much less may we

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Undo, by Force, what He shall Do; tho not according to Right, &c.

To conclude; *Monarchy* Compounded of *Three Co-ordinate Estates*, in plain *English*, speaks This *Non-sense*; the *Power* which *One only* hath, is in *Three*, jointly and equally: Beside that, if the *King*, *Lords*, and *Commons* are jointly the *Supreme Governors*, the *Correlatum* is wanting; for none are left, over whom they should *Reign*: we should have a *Kingdom* without a *Subject*; because *All* may *Challenge* a *Share* in the *Sovereignty*: It may be noted too, that the *Law* Entrusts the *King*, not the *People*, or the *Two Houses*, with the *Sovereignty*; for they only *Represent* the *Subject*, opposed to the *King*; who is their *Superior* by *Human*, and consequently *Divine Laws*; both as their *Natural King*, and as *God's Anointed*, His *Representative*.

LET. Now the being *Seduc'd*, and *Seducing* so many of His Majesty's *Subjects* from the *Established Religion* to
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That of Popery, is Treason by Two Statutes, viz. Eliz. 22. 1. Jam. 3. 4. and for which (say the words of the Statute,) They shall Forfeit, as in Cases of High-Treason; As the Late Proclamation by King and Council, hath also significantly declared.

ANS. I have not yet been able to meet with any more direct Intimations of the Duke's Being a *Papist*, than his not Coming to Church, and Taking the *Oaths* that might Capacitate him for the Enjoyment of such *Offices*, as his Birth and Merit, without Them, do justly Entitle him to. Now, such a *Non-conformity* is agreeable not only to the several Classes and Sub-divisions of *Protestantism*, but to all the *other Modes and Forms of worship*, in the World: And as to his not *Swearing*; That Reluctancy may, for ought we know, rather proceed from a Belief, that all *Oaths* are Unlawful; as not only divers Christians of Old, and the *Quakers* at this Day; but also the most Refined, and

ingeniously Learned of all Modern Sects (the *Socinians*,) do maintain; Than that he thinks the Matter of those that the *Law* requires, to be Damnable or Heretical. So that, all This is no more Conclusive of his Being a *Papist*, than a *Presbyterian*, *Independent*, *Quaker*, *Socinian*, nay, a *Turk*, or a *Jew*. He should have produc'd some Instances too, of such as had been Reconciled to *Rome* by the *Duke's* Means, if he would not have had it thought, that to Calumniate, not to Prove, was the Chief of his Business; for *So many*, is just *None at all*: And it is notorious, that he not only breeds all his *Children Protestants*, but generally leaves his very *Dom-sticks* to the *Same* Perswasions that they brought into his Service. God forbid, that every one should be a *Papist*, whom, not Positive Evidences, but only Faction, Malice, Presumption, or slight Circumstances, have labour'd so to Represent: But admitting (tho not granting) him to be *Now* of the *Romish* Communion; Who can say yet, That he

he has not been so ever since he came to the Use of Reason, and was forc'd to fly, to avoyd the Effects of the late Rebellion? If so; Those *Rebels* that occasioned this Evil, have more to Answer for, than *He* that, before his Years enabled him to understand better, suffer'd himself (out of an Abhorrence of such Villanies) to be Seduc'd; neither is He, in That Case, lyable to the Pains of *Treason*, in these *Statutes* pronounced against the Perverters, and Perverted to *Popery*: Nay, and (in a Word) tho it were otherwise, yet the General *Act of Indemnity*, Pass'd in 1673. makes him, on This Foot, stand *Rectus in Curia*, and Innocent before any Earthly Tribunal.

LET. *The Countenancing the Burning of London.*

ANS. Shameless *Impostor*! Was he not *Then* (what-ever he be *Now*) a Zealous *Protestant*? And, Is it not as undeniable, that, partly out of Gratitude

titude to his Beloved *Londoners*, (whose Minion he was) but chiefly to Preserve the Magazine of the Strength and Treasure of the Kingdom from utter Ruin, he expos'd his Person to a Thousand Dangers, to Rescue the City from Destruction? Was he not as Buſie and Nimble, in breaking open *Pipes* and *Conduits*, for Water, and Reaching of *Buckets*, as the meanest Person in the Streets? Did he not Clear all Passages from such Throngs and Crowds, as hinder'd the Carrying away of Goods; and appoint his *Guards* and *Servants* to Conduct them to Secure Places? In short; Was he not, for several Nights and Dayes (without Sleep, or Rest from Labour) seen in all parts, giving Necessary Orders for preventing the further Spreading of the *Conflagration*; as if *Love* (which usually works Miracles) had Multiply'd him, or rather given him a kind of *Ubiquity*? Insomuch, that, next to the Dispositions of *Providence*, we stand chiefly indebted, for what of it was left, to *His* Indefatigable Industry,

dustry, and Eminent Prudence: So far he was from *Countenancing* the Progression of the Flames! Wherefore, if the *Papists* may not, yet certainly his *R. H.* ought wholly to be Acquitted, in This Particular; especially, when we call to mind, that the *Phanatical Plotters*, Executed in *April* before, Confess'd at *Tyburn*, That they had so Contriv'd that Fatal Scene, that it could not Miscarry; and that the Event verify'd their *Prediction* to a Day, as to the *Fire*, tho not to the rest of their intended *Tragedy*.

LET. *The Endeavouring to Alter the Limited Monarchy into a Despotick Rule.*

ANS. What *Proof* of This? For let me tell the *Libeller*, (and all the world too) That He ever held the Constitutions of the Kingdom, as Sacred and Inviolable, in Reference to the People, as He now does in Regard of his Own Right: and hath been, by his Advice, and Influence over the

Great *Ministers*; the Principal Oppugner of all the *French Agents*; who, in Subserviency to their Evil Ends, would still be Tampering toward the Distinguishing and Raising an Opposition betwixt the *King's Interest*, and That of the *People*. But if our Ministers have made any False Steps, 'tis nothing to Him; for every Body knows, who have been the Sole and Publick Managers of Affairs; and these can witness, that he could never be reckon'd in their Number: He was so far from being Privy to the Advice of Breaking the *Tripple-League*, or making an *Alliance* with *France*, that he no sooner heard of, but he Oppos'd it, and (with *Cassandra's Fate*) foretold the *Issue*: He Influenc'd not a War with *Holland*; *Delenda est Carthago*, was not His Sentence; being so great a Stranger to the Attempt upon the *Smirna-Fleet*, before a Breach Declar'd; that Sir *Edward Spragg* (who was known to be his Creature) was not thought fit to be Entrusted with the Secret; and so the Design mis-carry'd,

Carry'd, not a little to His *Highness's* Honour: He had no Hand in *Dividing the Fleet*; in the *First Dutch War*; halting it up at *Chattam*, before a *Peace* Concluded; the Shutting up of the *Exchequer*; the Injunctions against the *Bankers*; the Entrenching upon the *Common's Right* of filling up their Vacancies; nor consequently, in the other Link of this Chain and Contrivance, the *Project of Indulgence*: [Tho, to give him his Due, he was for steadily pursuing Resolutions, when once taken; as knowing, that to do otherwise, were to lessen our Power, and make us Contemptible at Home and Abroad.] But, on the *Other side*, He made it his Bus'ness to free the People from their Fatal Longings after a *Common-wealth*, to which the Contagion of the Late Times had enslav'd them; with what Success, will easily appear, when we consider how much the Reverence due to *Majesty* is impair'd, and *Anti-monarchical Principles* are spread, within these Seven Years, since (upon some Mis-conceived,

ved, Popular Jealousies) he declin'd the Influence he had upon the State, by his Great Employments: and likewise, to Reward and Prefer such brave Souls, as had signaliz'd their Loyalty to His **Father** or **Brother**, in the Disorder of **Their** Affairs, and were profess'd Enemies to all that (upon the Specious Pretences of Securing the *Peoples Liberties*) sought to involve us in Fresh Troubles: He hath maintain'd Correspondence with Foreign *Princes*, by His *Majesty's* Approbation, for Securing the Well-fare of the Nation; and Endeavour'd also to draw them into Alliances with us, to Oppose the *French* particularly, or all other Enemies that should any way seek to Prejudice our *Legal Establishments*; as his *Secret Counsels*, and *Letters* sent, with the *King's* Allowance, to our several *Ambassadors* abroad, (and yet to be seen) do uncontroulably Demonstrate: And namely, the *Tripple-League* (which was the best Conjunction, that ever the *King* Enter'd into) was of His Advising;
 To

To check the Torrent of the *French* Successes, by creating them Work at Home, he also Forwarded all he could an *Alliance*, (Proposed by a *French* Gentleman, (Mr. *Rohux*) to His Majesty) For the Securing of *Forreign* Protestants; which would (in all probability) have come to a Happy Issue, had not Mr. *de Verax* (who, after the Insurrection in the *Vivarets*, Fled hither, and Rid sometime in the *Guard*) made Sale of the *Secret*, the *Safety* of his *Friend*, (for 'tho, upon Notice of the *Treachery*, Mr. *Rohux* Retired into *Switzer-land*, yet a Party of *French* Horse soon Apprehended him There, and Convey'd him to the *Bastile*; where, after a short Imprisonment, he was Broken upon the Wheel) and the *Protestant Religion*, in That Kingdom, all at once, to Mr. *Rovigny* (the *French-Leiger* here) for Two Hundred *Pistols*; and no longer since than This Summer, at *windsor*, he Facilitated the Treaty of *Alliance* Made between *This*, and the Crown of *Spain*, for the Common Security of Both Nations, against
all

all Enemies whatsoever, and to the inexpressible Advantage of our *Merchants* in *That* Country, and all other Parts of the *Spanish Dominions*: Tho it was against His Will, (as I have said before) that the *Dutch Wars* were Commenc'd; yet, the Resolution being taken by Those whose *will is a Law*, in Sheathing or Unsheathing the Sword of the Subject, He Valiantly, and for the Glory of the *English Nation*, in the *First*, with many Thousands of their Souldiers and Sea-men, Sunk a great Part of their *Fleet*, Blew up their *Admiral*, and with *Him* the very Reputation of their Naval Power, (thought before Invincible) and, by Sacking *Sheveling*, made Proud *Amsterdam* Tremble; for which great Services, as *England* shall ever be indebted, so, the *Parliament* then Sitting, were pleas'd to *Vote* him a *Hundred Thousand Pound*, as a Small Acknowledgment of *His Merit*, and *Their Affections*; and *London*, and all other Places, entertain'd *Him* with Acclamations of Joy: Nor did he less
deserve

deserve the Hatred of his Enemies, and Love of his Country, in the *Last War*; in which (notwithstanding the Disadvantages of *wind* and *Tyde*, a *Thick Mist*, and his being at *Anchor* when Set upon; yet) he Behav'd Himself with that Gallantry, that *De Ruyter* was forc'd to own *Us* Invincible, and that His *R. H.* exceeded all the *Admirals* in *Christendom*, as much in *Bravery*, as in *Birth*; as having, in the Heat of the Engagement, (when Re-fitting would lose the Benefit of his Orders and Action) chang'd *Ships* oftener than *Great Generals* at Land do their *Horses*: Neither must it be forgot, that in *Both Wars*, the Change of *Admirals* alter'd the Success: when the Late Expedition into *Flanders* was thought really design'd against the *French*, he put all his Equipage into a Readyness, and vow'd to Retrieve the Reputation of *England* by Death or Conquest; but a Great Man (*Then* at the *Helm*, but *Now* in the *Hold*) thought fit to Advise another *General*; which occasion'd That
Imposi-

Imposition of Peace, under which all the *States of Christendom* do more or less feel the heavy Pressures of the *French Insolence*; whereas, had not that Unhappy Stop been put to the *Parliament's Proceedings*, and the *Duke's Resolutions*, *Europe* would (in all probability) have had sufficient Ground to hope for a Restoration, in a few Years, to her Pristine Tranquility: The *King* wanting Money for the Defending of *Tangier*, His Highness, rather than so Important a Place for the Trade of the *Streights*, should fall into the Hands of the *Moors*, and perhaps by Them be Deliver'd up to worse Enemies; Generously Disburs'd a very Considerable Sum of Money for its Preservation; thereby demonstrating how Sollicitous he is for the Weal of *England*, even at a Time when ———. In Brief, and to Crown all; Hearing of a New Project for the Giving of the *King* Six Hundred Thousand Pounds, upon Condition of His Consenting to the *Bill of Exclusion*, Allowing of a New-Sett of Mini-

Ministers, &c. I am Credibly inform'd he wrote to His Majesty to This Effect: That If He could be Secure His Parliament would Agree with Him, upon Quitting His Interest; He should not longer struggle for Him, who would not only hazard His Uncertain Hopes of a Crown, but frankly Expose His Life also, to do Him Service; whose Long Reign and Happyness, (notwithstanding all the Forgeries of His Enemies) he as heartily wish'd (he said,) as any other the most Loyal Subject in His Dominions.

Now all This, being clear and undoubted Matter of Fact; I submit it to be judg'd how far His R. H. has all along been from attempting to alter the Limited Monarchy into a Despotick Rule.

LET. And combining with the Papists in all the parts of the Late Plot; make him liable to an Ax, while he is aspiring to a Scepter.

ANS. There is not a True Word in all this; for it was the Duke himself,

self, who [When Father *Bedingfield* brought him the treasonable Letters concerning the *Plot* and told him (falsly enough, no doubt of it) there was mischief design'd to his *R. H.* in particular, or to *Himself*, or the *Papists* in general for that the Enclosed Letters were forg'd, and one of them from a Person (*Dr. Fogarthy*) whose very name he never so much as heard of before] immediately shew'd the *Packet* to the King, that so the Conspirators and Papers might be Seiz'd, and the Truth sifted out; and His Majesty, looking upon One of the Letters, said, He had seen the Hand before; and gave such little Heed to the Contents of them, that my Lord *Danby* (in *His Case*) Assures us, the *Plot* had never been brought upon the *Stage*; but for the *Duke's* Importunity: Nay further, some eight Dayes after This, Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* sent, by *Coleman*, the Whole *Discovery*; with which the *Duke* a second Time acquainted the *King*, who yet spake not any thing to him of the

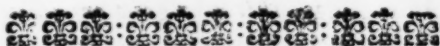
the Matter. So that, if to These certain *Particulars* we sub-joyn, that Mr. *Oates*, and Capt. *Bedlow*, (the Two *Poles*, on which the whole Frame of the Plot has its Motion and Circumigation) and all the *King's Witnesses* have Unanimously, both in *Print* and *Discourse*, acquitted Him from being Privy, or Consenting to, or Co-operating in any Part of that *Hellish Conspiracy*; as by their several *Depositions*, the *Journals* of Both Houses of *Parliament*, and the *Testimonies* of sundry Persons of *Honour*, may (at any time) be made fully to appear: His *Innocence*, and *Abhorrence* of such *Villanies*, must (on all Sides) be granted Unquestionable. And indeed, every one that knows him, will readily allow him to be naturally Incapable of any such Basenesses: For the *English*, *Scotch*, and *Irish*, the *French*, *Spaniards*, *Flemmings*, and *Dutch*, the *German*, *Swede*, and *Dane*, have Seen and Felt his *Bravery*, to their *Honour*, *Cost*, and *Envy*; and are able to witness, that He is a *Prince* not only

of an Innate Courage, Fearless, and Intrepid as a *Lion*; but a *Commander* of great Experience both at *Land* and *Sea*, of a truly *Martial* Temper; Patient of Cold, Heat, Hunger, Thirst, and all the Toys and Fatigues incident to War; Spritely, but not Rash; Wary and Secure in his Conduct, and still Fortunate and Successful in the Events of his Battles and Engagements; of ripe Wisdom, ready Apprehension, singular Industry and Application to Business; mature in Council, quick in Execution, and inflexible in his Resolutions, whil'st suitable to the *True Interest* of the Publick; of a Noble Presence, Affable Behaviour, with a Mixture of Pleasantness in his Words and Actions, that wins powerfully upon all that hear him; and, in Discourse, Solid and Pertinent, but voyd of Flourish, and empty Ostentation of Wit: He is, in all things, Temperate and Sober; in his Dealings between Man and Man, nicely Just; in his Word and Promises strictly Faithful, and religi-

religiously Punctual; Sincere in his Friendships and Professions; a Kind Brother, & a Dutyful Subject; an Obliging Husband, and an Excellent Master; Brave and Generous; Liberal, but not Profuse; Resolute, but not Stubborn; Great, but not Proud; Humble, but not Abject; not of a Narrow, Persecuting Spirit; so much in Love with his *Own*, as to despise the Opinions of all *Others*; or desirous of any Liberties, that he would not Grant; in *All* his Actions shewing Himself a *Gentleman*, but in *None* forgetting that He is a *Prince*. In a word, He is what the *French* call *Un Veneit Homme*, which signifies a Person composed of all the Good Qualities that make Men truly Valuable: And tho, as *Flesh* and *Blood*, he cannot be free from Passions, and Human Frailties; yet, in the World perhaps, there are not many *Princes* to be found with fewer; being doubly Related to *Henry the Great*, by his *Birth*, and by his *Sufferings*.

A Notable *Mercurialist*, in a late Extravagant *Paradox*, has taken a great deal of Pains to make out, that His *Royal Highness* is the *worse* for being *Better*; but he that has made God Himself the *Author of Sin*, brought Him into a *Plot* against the *People*, and averr'd Him to have *Predestinated* This Land to *Destruction*, may be allow'd to Treat his *Fellow-Creatures* a little *Coursely*: Nor indeed, is it much to be wonder'd at, that, as a Weak and Diseas'd *Stomack* nauseats even the best *Restorative*; so our *Nation*, amidst the Confusions and Distractions, that the *Fear* of Losing its *Liberty* (originally instill'd by such *Incendiaries* as This) has put it into, should dread none so much as Him, who, of all Men living, is the most *Passionate Lover* of his *Country*, and the best *Able and Willing*, were He a *King*, to Protect and Defend it.

SECT.



S E C T. X.

LET. **E**ighthly ; *A more Unaccountable Thing yet than all the Former, is, To see the King so far concern Himself, in having the Succession Declared and Determined: For, it is not usual to find a Prince appear in Favour of a Brother, when so many are in the Belief, that He hath a Legitimate Son of His Own. Many Kings have Endeavour'd the Advancement of their Bastard Children, to the Exclusion of their nearest Relations of the Right Blood; Only Charles the Second, will be the First on the File of History, that, when nothing but His bare Word was needful to the Settling His Dominions on His Son, as Legitimately Born; He alone, and in the Face of strong Suspicions to the contrary, would insinuate him to be only His Natural Son; and for no other Reason, but that He would Gratify*

His greatest Enemies. I'm sure, we read of few Kings, that ever gave any great Countenance to their Brethren; when they were their Presumptive Heirs; tho, in the mean time, they would not deprive them of their Legal Rights, providing they came to Out-live Them.

ANS. The Force of This Argument comes not up to the Drift of it; for it byasses thus; Because there have been Barbarous and Unnatural Princes in the World, therefore it is Unaccountable, why Charles the Second should pretend to Humanity: And, because the Turkish Policy still washes the Grand Seignior away to the Throne, with the Blood of all his Brethren; therefore, Our King ought not to spare, or at least not to indulge His. Now, What does he, Hereby, but strive to Reproach and Poison the Fountain of all our Comforts, the Unparallel'd Justice and Clemency of our Gracious Sovereign; a Clemency, that has exceeded the Standard of all Ages since the Creation, and to which

which even this *Man of Face* himself, stands at this instant indebted for the very Air he breaths? What does he but, as much as in Him lyes, violate the Bonds and Dictates of *Society* and *Good Nature*, place us in a worse Condition than the very Beasts, and run us back again into Mr. *Hobb's* Original State of War; by advancing in every Man, by so palpable an *Innuendo*, a Common Diffidence of his Neighbour? This being only a *Counter-part* of That Matchless piece of *State-Quackery*, the *Appeal*, (it dropt from the self-same *Quill* too) which labours to prove our best Friends, and nearest Relations, to be more Dangerous, than our Profess'd Enemies. Now, if this Doctrine hold good, it will, however, acquit His *Majesty*, in *Gratifying* (as he villanously asserts) His greatest Enemies. But, Was such then the only Reason that induc'd Him to refuse His *Royal Word*, in Confirmation of so Impious a *Forgery*? Or, Did He not rather find Himself oblig'd to That Refusal, in Case He

would be True to His *Own*, and His *Family's* Honour and Interest? Why should He be thought to have so soon forgot the Quality and Disposition of This Brat's *Foster-Father*? Or the Consequences of the *sheeps* Banishing their *Dogs*, upon a League made with the *wolves*, in the *Apologue*; Of Cardinal *wolsey's* Pulling down Two or Three *Monasteries*, to Erect a *Colledge* with the *Matterials*; Of *Henry the Sixth's* Consenting to the Destruction of his *Uncle*, the Good *Duke of Gloucester*; Of the *Protector's* Removing his *Brother* (the *Admiral*,) in *Edward the Sixth's* Time; The Murther of His most *Protestant Father*, upon Account of *Popery*; The Late *Trial* of a *Holy Brother*, for saying, *The Duke was a Papist, and the King little better*; Or, in a word, that the *Church-Men*, and all the *Bishops* (but *Two*,) are generally Branded for *Papists in Masquerade*? It was never yet imputed as a Fault in any of our *Monarchs*, to distrust the Extraordinary Caresses, and Sollicitousness of a Reconciled Enemy,

my, for their Safety ; or to suspect that their Subjects intended more than they discover'd, when once they came to insist upon things Unnecessary, or Unreasonable, or contrary to their express Command. But no Body will say, That Our Dayes furnish such Undutiful Instances ; Nor do I either in This, or any Other Place, intend the least Reflexion, but upon such Particular Persons only, as are bound in Gratitude to surcease meer Acts of Animosity, tho clouded under a Publick Guize, against their Generous Benefactors.

LET. *Tea, there are not many Ages past, since the Heir Apparent's being only Attended by a Greater Train, than the King then Reigning over these Kingdoms, used to be Accompanied with, is thought to have given that Jealousy to the Father, as Cost the Young Gentleman his Life.*

ANS. If This be so ; then Brothers are not the Only Objects of a Princess

ces Jealousy: And indeed, the Temptation of a *Crown* does not work upon any Man either as a *Brother*, or a *Stranger*; but equally upon *Both*: and more or less, as the Person is more or less Conscientious or Ambitious. So that, the Danger arises from the *Humour* of the Person, not from the *Relation*: Nay, and it presses stronger too, from a *Popular Faction*, that has no Right at all to a *Crown*, than from a *Legal Pretendent* upon a Claim of *Descent*; because the *One* only waits his Time, according to the Course of Nature; whereas the *Other* presses to his Point by the wayes of Blood and Violence, as having no other Means to compass it. To what End then, was This Example produc'd, seeing it clearly makes against the Bus'ness he aims at? Why, only to insinuate, as if *King James* had Poison'd his Son: Which is a Suggestion, the most False and Wicked that can be imagin'd; it being notorious, that Prince *Henry* Dy'd a Natural Death, (of a Feaver) and that his

his Father bore the Loss of him with the utmost Impatience.

LET. Surely, considering the present Posture of Affairs, and the Obnoxiousness of the Papists to the Law, for their many and continued Conspiracies against His Majesty's Person, and Lives of the People, the Protestant Religion, and the Peace and Safety of the Government; it were the King and Kingdom's Interest, to have the D. of Y's Title (as to his Succeeding to the Crown) to be left Undetermin'd and Doubtful. Nor can any thing so effectually Conduce both to the King's Own Security, and That of His Protestant Subjects, as to leave the D. of Y. under a Belief, That, should the King be taken away, there is one still behind, that can Dispute the Crown with Him. Nor can the D. of Y's pursuing the Having the Right of Succession at This time settled, intimate less to Considering Persons, but that the Papists entertain New Designs against His Majesty's Life; and that only they want such a Declaration,

tion, for the hastening of the Execution of them.

ANS. The *English* of This is, That the only way to secure the *King's* Life, is to bequeath to His People the Legacy of a *Civil War*, at His Death. Which is an Admirable Project questionless! But the Substance of This again occurring, I shall Adjourn the further Discussion of it, to a more proper Place.

LET. Your Lordship knows, that *Queen Elizabeth* would never positively name Her Successor, tho often Importun'd by Parliament so to do; for She very well understood, that if This had been once done, She should afterward Reign only by His Courtesy, and owe the Remnant of Her Life, and the Peace of the Government, to His Grace and Favour, whom She had Published for Presumptive Heir.

ANS. That the Present Case holds little or no Proportion with That of *Queen*

Queen *Elizabeth*, is too plain to need a Demonstration : And truly, I find the Proceedings of her time most grossly mis-interpreted, and mis-appl'y'd, upon sundry accounts, meerly to serve the Turn of a *Designing Faction* : As for instance, The *Association* was nothing else but a *Court-Project*, or *Confederacy*, in Prejudice of the *Scotish Line* ; and so far from being Universally accepted, that all the *Puritans* of Those Dayes (which were the same with Our *True Protestants*, alias *Fanaticks*) absolutely refused to enter into it ; and decry'd it as a *Popish Contrivance* to Exclude a *Protestant Successour* ; And indeed, such was it understood to be, by the *Papists* themselves ; as appears by the *Jesuit Doleman's* Book in Justification of it. Nor was the same Leaven of *Puritanism* less Zealous in declaiming against the *Parliament's* Power to divert or alter the *Succession*, when they saw the House of *Commons* at the Queens Devotion, and less Friends to King *James's* Pretensions, than to those of a *Papist* : As
is

is clear from Mr. *Wentworth's* Treatises, pen'd expressly to prove such an *Act* wholly *illegal*, and of no Force: Tho now we see the Tide strangely turn'd, and who but *these Mungrel-Protestants*, Now, to contradict the *Brother-hood* Then, in all these Particulars; and to apply the self-same Engines to the *plucking-down* of *Popery*, that the Other lookt upon as originally excogitated to *Raise* it. But to come to the matter. This *Queen* did not refuse to declare her *Successor*; only she would not suffer the *Parliament* any way to harp upon That string: And when, upon her Death-bed, she was Ask'd her Will in the Case, *who should Succeed* (said she) *but the King of Scots?* Wondering (as *Cambden* writes) that any body should Doubt, or be Ignorant of *His* Right. Nor is it less True, that she was a Woman of too much *Spirit* and *Bravery*, to forbear such a *Manifest*, purely upon the Abjeſt and Ignoble Motives that are here pretended.

LET. *And truly, the King's falling*
so

so immediately ill, after the D. of Y. had so earnestly solicited for a Formal Declaration of his being Next Heir to the Crown, occasioned some mens grounds of Fear, that his Dispatch is not only Resolv'd, but the Springs and Causes of it disposed before; and that, all things being Ripe, This was meerly contriv'd to facilitate the Duke's Enterance upon the Government. In Brief; matters are arriv'd at That Pass, that the Papists cannot suffer the King to continue, and the Duke and They long escape the demerit of their Actions: For, as his Majesty cannot subsist, nor preserve the Reputation of his Crown and Government many Months longer without a Parliament; no more can They, through the Number, Quality, and Palpableness of their Crimes, bear one. So that the necessity of their Affaires, as well as their Inclinations, seconded by their Principles, oblige them, by one means or another, to Remove Him: wherein, if they Succeed, (as I see no rational foundation of judging but that they will) there is nothing remains towards the Preserving Our Religion, Lives

Lives and Liberties, but to endeavour according to the Vote and Resolve of the Last Parliament, to Revenge his Death upon the Papists. 'Tis true; the King would not be prevail'd upon by any Importunities (tho frequently made by the D. at the Board, on Wednesday last) to Order a Council-Table Declaration, in favour of York's Right to Succeed, in case his Majesty should Die before Him: Yet the business would appear to be so far gone, and all things so dispos'd already, in prospect of what they intend; that they cannot, without hazarding their whole Concernments, recal themselves from the Purpose of Murthering Him. Yea, the King's not gratifying the Duke, in his so often repeated Suit; will now serve only to possess them with Apprehensions of Jealousy, and make them accelerate, rather than delay the Wickedness. 'Tis possible they may foresee that it will be accompany'd with greater hazards, than it would have been, could they have compassed That business: But they are gone past Retreat, and must either Perish by the Sword of Justice, or seek to protect

test Themselves, by Destroying the King. And tho this failure give them greater Apprehensions, that they must seek their Safety by Recourse to Force, then there would have been cause for, had the Duke obtained such a Declaration; yet, men in their Circumstances, and where there is no Medium, will chuse rather to venture the being Slain in the Field, than Hang'd on a Gibbet, or to have their Heads cut off upon a Block.

ANS. Before I lanch forth into a Particular Examination of the respective Branches of this Diabolical Gallimaufry; due Order requires a Prefixing of the Declaration (here so often mentioned) which was in the Form ensuing.

Charles R.

WE cannot but take Notice of the great Industry & Malice, wherewith some Men of a Seditious and Restless Spirit, do spread abroad a most false and scandalous Report of a Marriage, or Contract of Marriage, supposed to be had and made between Us, and one

K

Mrs.

Ms^r. *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, now Deceased, Mother of the present Duke of *Monmouth*, aiming thereby to fill the Minds of Our Loving Subjects with Doubts and Fears, and if possible, to divide them into Parties and Factions, and as much as in them lies, to bring into Question the clear undoubted Right of our True and Lawful Heirs and Successors to the Crown. We have therefore thought Our Self obliged to let Our Loving Subjects see what Steps We (out of Our Care of Them, and their Posterity) have already made, in order to obviate the ill Consequences that so Dangerous and Malicious a Report may have, in future Times, upon the Peace of Our Kingdoms.

In *January* last was Twelve-month, We made a Declaration written with Our Own Hand, in these Words following.

THere being a False and Malicious Report industriously spread abroad by some, who are neither Friends to Me, or the Duke of *Monmouth*, as if I should have been either Contracted, or Married to his Mother; and though I am most Confident, that this Idle Story cannot have any Effect in this Age; yet I thought it my Duty, in Relation to the True Succession of This Crown, and that Future Ages may not have any Pretence to give Disturbance

upon that Score, or any other of This Nature, to Declare, as I do here declare in the Presence of Almighty God, That I never was Married, or gave any Contract to any Woman whatsoever, but to my Wife Queen Catherine, to whom I am now Married. In Witness whereof, I set My Hand, at White-Hall, the Sixth of January, 1679.

CHARLES R

And This Declaration I make in the Presence of

W. Cant.

H. Coventry.

H. Finch, C.

J. Williamson.

TO strengthen This Declaration, We did in March following (which was March last was Twelve-month) make a more Publick Declaration in Our Privy-Council, written likewise with Our Own Hand; and having caused a true Transcript thereof to be Entred in Our Council-Books, We Signed it, and caused the Lords of Our Privy-Council, then attending Us in Council, to Subscribe the same likewise, and We Ordered the Original to be kept in the Council-Chest, where it now remains. The Entry whereof, in the Council-Book, is in these Words following:

At the Court of *White-hall*, *March 3d. 1679.*

Present

The KING'S Most Excellent Majesty

Lord Chancellor	Earl of <i>Essex</i>
Lord Treasurer	Earl of <i>Bathe</i>
Duke of <i>Lauderdale</i>	Earl of <i>Craven</i>
Marquess of <i>Worcester</i>	Earl of <i>Aylesbury</i>
Earl of <i>Offory</i>	L. Bishop of <i>London</i>
Lord Chamberlain	L. Bishop of <i>Durham</i>
Earl of <i>Sunderland</i>	Lord <i>Maynard</i>
Earl of <i>Clarendon</i>	Mr. <i>Vice-Chamberlain.</i>

HIS Majesty was This Day pleased to Command, That the *Declaration* hereafter following, be Entred into the Council-Book, it being all Written and Signed by His Majesty's Own Hand, in a Paper which His Majesty this Day delivered at the *Board*, to be kept in the Council-Chest; viz.

FFor the Avoiding of any Dispute, which may happen in the Time to come, concerning the Succession of the Crown, I do here Declare in the Presence of Almighty God, That I never gave nor made any Contract of Marriage; nor was Married to any Woman whatsoever, but to My present Wife *Queen Catherine*, now Living. *White-Hall, the Third Day of March, 1679.*

CHARLES R.

His

His Majesty Comanded Us who were present at the Making and Signing this Declaration, to Attest the same.

Finch, C.

Danby

Lauderdale

Worcester

Offory

Arlington

Sunderland

Clarendon

Essex

Bathe

Craven

Aylesbury

H. London

N. Durham

W. Maynard

G. Garteret.

IN April last, We found the same Rumour not only Revived again, but also Improved with New Additions; to wit, It was given out, That there was a Writing yet extant, and lately produced before several Persons, whereby the said Marriage, or a Contract at least, (for the Report was various) would appear; and that there are several Lords and Others, yet living, who were pretended to have been present at the said Marriage. We knew full well, that it was impossible, that any thing of This should be True, (there being nothing more groundless and false, than that there was any such Marriage or Contract between Us, and the said Mrs. Walters, alias Barlow) yet We proceeded to call before Us, and caused to be Interrogated in Council, such Lords, and o-

ther Persons, as the Common Rumour did surmize to have been present at the pretended Marriage, or to know something of it, or of the said Writing. And though it appeared to all our Council, upon the Hearing of the said *Lords*, and other Persons Interrogated, and upon their Denying to have been present at any such Marriage, or to know any thing of it, or of any such Writing, That the Raising and Spreading of such a Report, so incoherent in the several Parts of it, was the Effect of deep Malice in some few, and of loose and idle Discourse in others; Yet We think it requisite at this time, to make Our Declarations above-recited more Publick; and to Order the same (as We do hereby with the Advice of Our *Privy-Council*) to be forth-with Printed and Published. And We do again upon This Occasion, call Almighty God to Witness, and Declare upon the Faith of a Christian, and the VVord of a King, That there was never any Marriage, or Contract of Marriage, had or made between Us, and the said Mrs. *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, the Duke of *Monmouth's* Mother, nor between Us, and any VVoman whatsoever, Our Royal Consort Queen *Catherine*, that now is, only excepted.

And We do hereby strictly Require and Command all Our Subjects whatsoever. That they presume not to Utter or Publish any thing

thing contrary to the Tenor of This Our *Declaration*, at their Peril, and upon Pain of being Proceeded against according to the utmost Severity and Rigour of the Law.

*Given at Our Court at White-Hall, the
Second Day of June, in the Two and
Thirtieth Year of Our Reign.*

On the *Fifteenth* of the same Month of *June*, the *Attorney General*, by the King's Command, moved, in *Chancery*, That these *Declarations* might be Enroll'd, and made a Record of That Court, for the preservation of them; in Order whereunto, the *Lords* and Others of the Privy Council, (who were present at the Making and Signing of them, and now in *Court*) being desired to *Attest* the same, they did it upon their Oaths, as did likewise the *Clerks* of the Council; and so, (as I have hinted before) they were then Enroll'd accordingly. Now, tho This Authentical Paper, nay, and even Time it self, has absolutely blunted the Edge, and expos'd the Drift of These Audacious *Sophistries*; Yet I

shall resume, and briefly run over the most material Heads of the *Paragraph*, in order as they lie. *First* then, The *Papist's* being obnoxious to the Law, will hardly justify our beating of one anothers Brains out. And did himself believe (as he pretends) either that the leaving of the Succession *Doubtful*, were the most effectual means to secure the King, or that the *Duke* has any Designs upon his Brother; How could he Answer for the Publication of so Important a Secret? Thereby, what in him lyes, Accelerating that Fatal Blow, that he would be thought to Shield. But His *Majesty's* Safety (*God* be thanked!) depends not upon any such Fallacious Project; an *Almighty Hand*, and a *Stretched-out Arm*, being still His Protector and Defender; against all the Practices of False Friends, or Open Enemies. *Secondly*, As to Queen *Elizabeth's* not Declaring the *Succession*; I shall add, to what I have said already, Part of Her Speech to *Metland*, (the *Scottish* Ambassador) in the *Third Year* of

of Her Reign; which may be found in *Buchanan*, (*Lib. 17.*) and some of our own *Chronicles*: If it shall please God to call Me; (sayes the *Queen*) yet your *Queen* shall never find, that I have done any thing, which may Hurt or Impair that Right, which She Claimeth to the Kingdom of England, in any Sort. And I call God (the Hearer of this our Discourse) to Witness, that I know none, next to My Self, whom I can Prefer before Her; or, if the Matter should come into Controversy, that can Debar Her. You know what the Competitors are: Upon what Confidence or Power can those Simple Things attempt so high a Matter? And I do highly Commend the wisdom of your Noble-Men, that would both provide Providently for their Own Safety, and avoyd (by all Means) the Effusion of Christian Blood; which, I confess, could not be saved, if any Faction should Oppose it self in the Claim of the Kingdom. But, where is That Faction? Or, by what confidence of any Power can it presume so to do? &c. Nor is it unknown,
how

how severely she handed M. *Thornton* (Reader of *Lincolns-Inn*) for presuming in his Readings, to Reflect upon the *Scotch-Queens* Title. *Thirdly*, This is only a general Scandal improv'd into a Particular Instance; for, every body knows, that such His Majesties Distemper, was as natural, as His Recovery is unquestionable. And *Lastly*, In his following way of Reasoning, under the Countenance of proving it to be the Papists Interest to Murther the King, What does he less, than all he can in the world, to possess them with the Necessity of doing it; and consequently to force them upon it. *Chuse rather to venture the being Slain in the Field* (sayes he) *than Hang'd upon a Gibbet*. Were not this Libel almost as publick as a News-book, and his Propositions erected upon a False Bottom, I should not have dar'd to speak his Words after him. His first *Argument* runs Thus, *The King cannot long be without a Parliament, nor the Papists bear one; so that, as well upon Necessity, as Inclination and Principle, they will*

Re-

Remove Him. The One half of This spoken in a Corner, to a knot of Priests and Jesuits, and fairly prov'd upon a man, would be as much as his Head is worth. And is the Crime ever the Less, for doing the same thing in Publick, where the Provocation is Stronger? These Discourses are not to pass for simple Declarations of a man's *Opinion*; but Artificial Encouragements rather, and Advises for the *Doing* of the Thing; especially, if one consider the *Pen* they come from, and the *Consequences*: For a *Parliament* has been Call'd, the *Papists* have Suffer'd, and the KING is yet (and may He long continue) *In Safety*. And in Truth, what does he less, by urging that *Vote* of the last House of Commons but one, than labour to Incite some or other desperate *Enthusiast* (for there are *Feltons*, *Poltrots*, and *Dandelots*, as well as *Clements*) to do the Deed; that so his intended *Butcheries* may take place? His *Other* Argument is drawn from the Papist's far Advancement in their Plots upon his Majesties Person, and
from

from His refusing the Duke a *Council-Table Declaration* in favour of his Right to Succeed. By the *First* Branch of it, he fairly intimates the Extraordinary Trust that is Reposed in Him by the Jesuits, to whom he would be thought to be a great Private: And for the *Other*, it is (as I noted before) the Cardinal Hinge, that Supports the whole *Fabrick*; which necessarily stands or falls with it. Now the *Manifest* (above) wholly destroyes this Pretext; for it presents a *Declaration*, of the self-same purport with the *Other*, made long before any thing of the Plot was so much as heard of: And therefore this *Latter* was only a Repetition of the same Act, and altogether unnecessary, and unprofitable, as to the *Papists*. Nor is there any thing more False, than that the Duke ever Importun'd, or the King Deny'd, the making of any such *Declaration*; so far were all these *Items* of Terrour and Dissuasion from Affecting in the least, a *PRINCE* so Just, and Magnanimous, tho Calculated expressly for that

that very purpose. But why This worse than Astrological Determination upon the KING's Fate to the Multitude? But that it was his Designe to Teaze and Chase the Rabble into Rage, and dispose and prepare them to entertain any Occasion for Uproar and Tumult; and, when their Blood should be up against the Contrivers of this hellish Plot, to Misdirect the Rash and Outragious Humour: It being clear, as well from the Declaration it self, as from his own Pen, that since nothing but Blood would do his Business, he had resolv'd if possible, to Effect the wayes of it. But it may be worthy the Note of all such Miscreants, that the Word of GOD is Express, that *The Bloud-Thirsty shall not Live out Half their Dayes.*

SECT.

S E C T. XI.

LET. **N**inethly; *As I know not who dare Proclaim the Duke of York, should the King depart this Life before him, seeing the House of Commons, in a Bill Twice Read, and Pass'd, have made it not only Capital, but Treasonable to do it: So, if my Information do not greatly deceive me, the Duke of Monmouth, before he was Taken from his Mother in Holland, and Carryed to Paris, went for, and was acknowledged as Prince of Wales: And consequently, to undermine This Title, if, in the Issue, he should prove so, is not less than Treason by the Statute. And your Honour knows, that tho the King's Affirmative might be of some Significancy, toward the Declaration of his Legitimacy, and Corroboration of his Right to the Imperial Crown; yet his Negative imports just Nothing; when Con-*
from

fronted with Positive Evidence to the Contrary.

AN S. Would it do him any Good, I might have told him of a *New-Moulded Bill* of the same Tenour, in a *New-House of Commons*, that was *Thrice* Read and Committed, and sent up to the *Lords*, and There thrown out with some Indignation: But it will be more to the Purpose, to assure him, That we are not yet, nor ever are likely to be afraid, or stand in awe of an *Ordinance*; much less about to heed the Dictates of an *Abortive Bill*. As to his *Tale* about the *Prince of Wales*; since his own *Face* will not give it for other than an *Information*, & That a Suspicious One too; it may suffice to Object, That *Hear-Sayes* are no Evidence: And in truth, it is the most Ridiculous, Improbable, and Uncircumstantiated, in the whole *Legend*. But to come to his *Issue*; If he has not sufficiently proved his *Point*, (as I'm sure, he's yet far enough from it) the very *Statute* he produces in
Favour

Favour of the True Heir, has bequeath'd his *Four Quarters* to the *Four Gates* of the *City*. And *Lastly*, When *Positive Evidence* appears, I'll tell him more of my Mind: In the meanwhile, he would do well to give some Reason why the *King's Affirmative* should do Good, and yet His *Negative* be incapable of doing Hurt. If there be any that will not take their *Prince's Word*, in this Case, they may justly despair of a Conviction by any other Means, than the *Voyce* of an *Angel* from *Heaven*: And they are wish't to have Patience till then.



S C E T. XII.

LET. **L** Astly; *whereas the Partisans and Parasites of the D. of Y. would have it judg'd a great Reproach upon the King, that ever He shou'd be thought to have Marry'd a Person of so low a Quality, as Madam Walters;*
they

they do but in That discover at once their small Acquaintance with History, and either their Want of Memory, or Ingenuity, in what concerns his R. H. Your Lordship doth very well know, that Edw. 4. (tho Actually in the Throne, and withal a Magnanimous and Victorious Prince, yet) Marry'd an Ordinary Gentlewoman; and she not only one of his own Subjects, but the Relict of a Former Husband, and the Widow of an Enemy to his Crown and Family: whereas the King, when supposed to have Marry'd the D. of M's Mother, was Actually in Exile; the utmost of His Possessions lying in some faint Hopes; which His Right to the English Crown Administred unto Him.

ANS. There is nothing in This, worth taking Notice of; for tho it should all be granted, yet would it not make one Jot for Him, or in the least prejudice the Truth Assert: Why did he not rather take up the Vulgar Reports upon This Occasion; That Mrs. Walters ~~was~~ indeed Marry'd to the King,

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but

but not by Consent of Parliament ; neither (as not any Forreigner) did she Enrich the Land with a Joynture ; and therefore her Children could not Inherit. These, now, are *Insinuations* False ; and equally Wild and Childish : For the Law takes Notice of no other Qualifications, than *Loyalty* and *Virtue* : Bare and Naked *Extraction*, is a Consideration also greatly below the Generosity of a *Royal Breast* : neither is it allow'd any Place, even in the Field of *Argument*.

Edward the Fourth did indeed Marry a *Private Woman* ; and so did *Harry the Eighth*, several : Nor was there any Breach of *Law*, in the Act ; for *Our Kings* are Free, in That Particular. But the Consequence of the *Match* was not over Fortunate to *Edward*, as *Chronicles* Witness ; for it strip him of his *Crown*, and his *Country* too, for a Season ; and had like to have depriv'd him of his *Life*, for altogether.

LET. And as it is not improbable, but
that

that he found it necessary to Marry, rather than, by taking another Course, to Alienate the Minds of those farther from Him, whose Love it was His Interest to Recover; so the Deplorableness of His Condition, at That Time, gave him small Encouragement to demand in Marriage any that was the Daughter of a Neighbour King or Monarch. Nor is it difficult to conceive how far the Wit, Beauty, and Ayre of such a Lady as Madam Walters was, might prevail upon, and entangle a Young Prince Naturally Amorous, and alwayes an Admirer of such Qualifications.

ANS. He touches, with so little Concern, upon the *King's* Exile; the hard Shifts that His Majesty was sometimes put to in it; and so slightly passes over the Villanies that caused them, even when a Just Occasion (as Here) presents it self, to aggravate upon the Subject of those *Traitor's* Guilt; and the Calamitous Effects of a *Rebellious Wantonness*; that even Common Charity it self cannot

admit of a Supposal, that He had the Honour of any Share at all in those Glorious Sufferings; or that His Pulse beats stronger toward an Abhorrence, than toward an Approbation, and Repetition of such Hellish Practices.

Now, as to the Politick Part of this *Little Finger* of a *Pretext*; it answers it self: For an entire *Dis-engagement*, a Liberty to *Ally* Himself where His Friendship and Affection should, by a Course of Good Offices, be best Deserv'd; was undoubtedly His only Interest. And he does not neither (I hope) give Mrs. *U.* *Beauty* and *Wit*, exclusively of all others; Wherefore, I can allow those Qualifications to have won upon the *King* Then, because they have done it Since too; tho all along, in a way quite different from that which he here pretends to stickle for. And then, His *Title* was too Just also, not to Authorize the *Demand* of a *wife* (had His Inclinations so been) from any Neighbour *Prince*; Nbr were His *Hopes* ever so Faint, or *Condition* Deporable, as not to Promise Success:
Since

Since it cannot be forgot, that even a *Perkin Warbeck*, a meer impostor, found more Favour than That comes to, from a Wise and Valiant *Scottish King*. Nay, and *History* abounds in Instances of the like Quality.

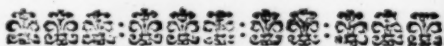
LET. *Nay, My Lord; tho the D. of Y. hath been twice Marry'd, and when in much better Circumstances, than the King Then was; yet he hath no great Cause of bearing Himself upon the Antiquity, or Greatness of the Families into which he hath Match'd: For, I'm sure, neither of His Dutcheesses derived their Descent from so Eminent a Pedigree, or of That Figure in Heraldry, as the D. of M's Mother proceeded from. They are great Strangers in England, who do not know, that her Father was a Gentleman of an Old Brittish Lineage, and stood Possess'd of a much Fairer Estate, than the late Lord Chancellor Hide was ever Born unto. And tho I will cast no Reflections upon his Acquisitions; yet This may be affirmed with Modesty, that he was more indebted for Them to the Fa-*

your of his Prince, than to any Extraordinary Merit in Himself, or Recommended by the Dignity and Services of his Ancestors. And one would think, the Returns he made unto His Majesty, in more than a Thousand Instances, should not render the King very fond of Transferring the Crown to His Off-Spring.

ANS. What if This were True? It is nothing at all to the Purpose yet; for it is not the *Pedigree*, but the *Virtue* that is in Question. And again; Suppose the *Father* were not so Good as he should have been: That ought not, in Justice, yet to operate to the Prejudice of his more Deserving, or at least more Innocent Off-Spring. But I find none more ready to shut up the Streams of His Majesty's Clemency from their Fellow-Subjects, than such generally, as owe (not their *Estates* only to His *Bounty*, but) even their very *Heads* too, to His *Mercy*.

And it is not neither the bare *Exclusion* of his *R. H.* (it seems) that will satisfy; unless the *whole Line* be Reduc'd

duc'd under the same Predicament. This is a very unlucky Slip! But properly enough plac'd here, (i confess) in regard the *End* should Naturally follow the *Means*,



S E C T. XIII.

LET. **M**^R Lord; Having endeavour'd to Obey you in One of your Commands; I shall, in the next Place, apply my self to the Consideration of your Second: And to ease your Lordship of all Unnecessary and Superfluous Trouble, I shall not Entertain you with any long Character of Sir Gilbert Gerard; as presuming, that That Gentleman is fully known unto you. All I shall therefore say concerning him, is, That he is still the same, and of the same Principles he was, when he suffer'd so much for the King, in the late Times: That is, He is a Loyal Subject, a Good Protestant, and a True English-Man; One who will obey his

L 4

Prince,

Prince, as far as Conscience, Law, and Honour, will allow him; but will sacrifice none of These, neither upon Mercenary Terms, nor to avoid Impendent Dangers. And, as it were Happy for the King, were all His Subjects of that Figure; so it would greatly redound to the Honour of the Church of England, to have all Her Members of That Complexion, and Temper.

AN S. Here's a Prefatory Panegyrick hall'd in by Head and Shoulders, purely to reflect a General Scandal upon the Church of England, the Sons of it, the Friends of the Government, as by Law Establish'd, and His Majesty's most Loyal & Obedient Subjects. Which is a very Ominous Introduction, truly; and sufficiently evidences to the Ingenuity of the Sequel. But in this Respect however, he is Worthy of some Commendation; that, where he has no Kindness, he chuses rather to express a frank Disdain, than a fawning Compliance: Neither is it to be expected, that *Mr. Wall* should so soon

soon have forgot her pernicious Faculty of *Worse Speaking*; and so no Good Men can suffer by any *Reproach*, no better qualify'd. And, in a Word, Sir Gilbert Gerard pretends to too great an Interest in the Dictates of *Honour*, *Loyalty*, and *Religion*; to thank any one for his Pains,, that shall attempt to Raise him I know not what perverse Sort of *Reputation*, upon the Ruin of these Objects of his Love.

LET. Nor ought his being put out of the Commission of the Peace, be Constru'd as any Reflection upon him; seeing he hath so many worthy and Deserving Persons, in all the Counties of England, Sharers with him in the same Fortune. What the Occasion of That Treatment was, your Lordship fully understands, tho you were no way Interested in the Affair; and it is to be hop'd, that the King may in time, discover the Perniciousness of those Counsels, which have prevented His hearkening to the Humble Intreaties of many of His People, and have Influenc'd Him to disoblige
a great

a great Number of His best Subjects. I'm sure, both His Majesty, and the Kingdom do already sensibly suffer by it, while the Gentlemen themselves are only Discharg'd from a Burthen. There may possibly be some mean Souls, who covet being in the Commission, to obtain a Respect in their Country, or to make a Gain by their Office and Employment; but Sir Gilbert, with those other Gentlemen who are in the same Predicament with him, are Persons who (in their greatest Privacies) can command a Deference from all about them; and whom God hath bless'd both with Estates and Minds, that exalt them above the Temptations of Fees for Warrants, or Gratuities for Connivance at the Breach of His Majesty's Laws.

AN S. This is only the Second Part to the Same Tune; and I produce the Passage, Chiefly to Recommend this Infamous Libel to the Hands of Justice; and not, from It, to take an Occasion to labour the wiping those supposed Spots off the Face of the Sun, that
only

only a Weak and Malevolent Eye can spy in't. None but the Meanest of Mortals, would ever charge the Worst Things upon the Best Men: And if the *Government* is sensibly touch'd by a Blow given to any *Member* of it; What an Inexpressible Resentment must it needs have, of this Audacious Box o'th' Ear reach'd to it Self? In short; Our Change, in the *Particular* he speaks of, is manifestly from Worse to Better: Nor is that Counsel aloof of Virtue and Prudence, that, when the Body Politick is *Hide-bound*, recommends a *Laxative* in place of a *Restringent*. This may suffice, for My Part: The Rest I leave to the *Hang-Man*.

LET. *But, My Lord; That I may the better give you the History of This Transaction, (or rather Farce) concerning Sir Gilbert Gerard's Appearing before the Council; You may be pleas'd to know, that he was sent for by a Letter under the Hand of my Lord Sunderland, requiring him to come up immediately.*

ately. And because a Missive by the Post might have too much Preserv'd the Priviledge of a Member of Parliament, and intimated too great a Respect to a Gentleman whose Brother had lost his Life for **Downing** His Majesty's Interest under Oliver Cromwel, and Himself undergone Costly and Severe Imprisonments; there was a Creature, stiled a Gentleman-Usher Order'd to carry the Letter, and to bring him to White-Hall.

ANS. I have not taken any fresh notice of such *Objections*, as were before *Answer'd*; and again Occur'd, in his Working up the *Narrative* to this Pitch. I have likewise pass'd over all those Suggestions, that tend not manifestly to Countenance the Pretext of the D. of M's *Legitimacy*, (the *Principal* of the *Debate*) and the Calumnies upon the *Privy-Council*, with as little Heed as they Deserv'd. And my *Replies* upon This, and all that follows, shall be as Succinct too; the Matter of *Fact* being True, for the most part; when strip'd of the Partial
and

and Malicious *Glosses*, and *Expositions* of the *Relater*: *Glosses* so grossly and palpably Forc'd and Barbarous, that it would be an Affront even to the most *Dim-sighted* Judgments, to waste Paper in Pointing out, or Remarking upon them. So that, I shall only put on the way to his Account of the *Transaction*; present, afterward, the *Short and Truth* of it; and so make *An End*.

LET. Now, tho Sir Gilbert was hardly Recover'd from a Fit of the Stone, and remain'd Confined, by Weakness, to his Chamber, when these Blades arrived at his House; yet he immediately Comply'd with the Message, and Address'd himself to his Journey with all the Expedition he could; thereby testifying at once, his Obedience to His Majesty, and the Security he enjoy'd in his own Mind, as to his Innocency, tho he knew not what he was sent for. Being come to the Court; instead of meeting with my Lord Sunderland, there was an Order left for the Conducting him to Mr. Coventry, who was then the Other Secretary of State, tho he hath since Resigned to Sir Leonel Jenkins. But whereas every Rational Man would have apprehended, that a Parliament-Man, being seiz'd, and brought so

so far Prisoner, within the time of Priviledge, would have been question'd for nothing less than a PLOT to Assassinate the KING, or a Conspiracy of Levying War against the Government; yet, all he was Interrogated about, was, if the late Lord of Durham had at any time entrusted him with a **Black Box**, containing a Contract of Marriage between the KING, and the Duke of Monmouth's Mother? or, Whether he had seen any such Contract? You may easily apprehend, that he was not a little surpriz'd, after all the Fatigue and Expense they had put him to, to find himself examin'd in Relation to so Ridiculous and Romantick a Story: However, being oblig'd to make a Civil Answer; he told the Secretary, That he was neither intrusted with such a **Box**, nor had so much as heard of such a Contract. Which Reply of Sir Gilbert's being Recorded in Writing, Mr. Coventry was pleas'd to tell him, (by what Warranty we may possibly know some other time) That he was oblig'd both to Subscribe it, and to Ratify it by an Oath. Sir Gilbert, being more amazed than before, Replied; That as he little imagin'd, that he had been sent for upon a Business of That Nature, seeing he knew no Reason why his Name should be Interested in it; so he would neither set his Hand to the Answer he had given, or Take his Oath to Confirm it. And indeed

indeed, he had Reason for what he said; for, How could he know, but This might be a Leading Question to some thing else? for whosoever had invented That Fabulous Story, might, with as much Truth, and with more Sense, have charg'd him with some Criminal Matter. Accordingly, instead of doing what was requir'd by Mr. Coventry, he only ask'd, Whether he was sent for thither, and taken into Custody, as a Criminal? To which the Secretary Return'd; That he had no other Directions, than to ask him the foregoing Questions; which he endeavour'd by many Arguments to have obtain'd his Reply unto, under Oath. But Sir Gilbert wholly declining to Swear, and representing, That he had come a long and tedious Journey, whereof he was weary; desired to know, How he should be Disposed of? Whereupon he was told, That he might go to his Lodging, provided he would promise to Attend the KING, and Council, the Monday following. Where, having, at the Time, made his Appearance, he was call'd in, after that the Judges had been there a Quarter of an Hour before him: And His Majesty was pleased to tell him, That he was not sent for Thither, to be Charg'd with any Crime; but only to make Oath, whether the late Bishop of Durham had not Confign-

signed to him a **Black Box**, wherein was contained a Contract of Marriage betwixt His Majesty, and the D. of M's Mother? To which, having Reply'd as before; and withal, excus'd himself from Taking any Oath in such Cases wherein the Law had not prescrib'd: There were many Arguments us'd to perswade him, and long Harrangues, representing the mischievous Consequentes, which a Doubtful Title might occasion. But he, insisting upon the Right of an English-man; namely, That he might not be requir'd to Swear; but in such Cases as the Law had appointed; all the Judges, and (in Conjunction with Them) my Lord Chancellor, gave their Opinion, That he was oblig'd by the Law to Take his Oath; in a Matter of this great Moment, which threatned the Nation with no less, than what fell out betwixt the Houses of York and Lancaster. Which accordingly he did, to the Purport already intimated; *Viz.* That he knew of no such thing as a **Black Box**, nor any thing relating to such a Contract of Marriage, as he was then Interrogated about. Now, my Lord, I know not how a Gentleman could have carry'd it with more True Courage and Honour, than Sir Gilbert did; for as the Opinion of the Judges was to overrule Him, as to what was Law; so only a Parliament is capable of Judging whether they

Acted

Acted consonantly to their Duty: And, till that Happy Hour come, I Commend your Lordship to the Divine Protection; and am,

London, May
15th. 1680.

My Lord,

. Your most Humble Ser-
vant, &c.

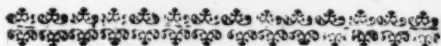
A N S. The *Sum* of that Proceeding was no other than This; That Sir *Gilbert*, being inform'd against upon the Premises, was Civilly sent for, Civilly came; was Civilly interrogated, Civilly and Satisfactorily answer'd; was Civilly us'd, and Civilly dismiss'd; the *Cheat* Detected, the *People* were Satisfy'd, and *All Well*.

And because he seems to make a Mockery of the *Contentions* betwixt the *Houses* of *York* and *Lancaster*; I cannot but recommend to Consideration, what Calamities this poor Kingdom sustain'd; what Butcheries, what Rapines were here Committed, when no *Foreign* Assistance was in Place;

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but

but only English Against English, Mur-
thering and Destroying one another,
in those Intestine Wars! What Mas-
sacres! what Desolations of Cities and
Towns! what Bloody Battles ensu'd
the *Dis-inherison* of the House of York,
notwithstanding the Solemn *Resigna-
tion* of King *Richard the Second*, and
all the *Acts* of *Parliament* to Establish
and Confirm it! That, during these
Distractions, in the Space of *Sixty*
Years, were *Seventeen* Pitch'd-Battles
Fought in **This Kingdom**; and no
less than *Eight* Kings, and Princes of
the Blood; *Forty* Dukes, Marquesses,
and Earls; Barons, and Gentlemen;
Innumerable; and *Two Hundred Thou-
sand* of the Common People, Slaugh-
ter'd and Destroy'd. And, Is not
This, now, a fine Encouragement,
think ye, to Embarque for a *Second*
Adventure, upon the same Coasts?



THE
CONCLUSION.

S E C T. XIV.

I Am now got *Thorough*: And could willingly have *Here* dismiss'd my *Adversary*, and the *Reader*, Both together; had not the Iniquity of the Times, and the Dangerous Predominancy of *Obloquy* and *Malevolence*, which will not suffer even the most Loyal Words, and Innocent Thoughts, to pass Scot-free, forc'd me to press a little further upon the Patience of the *Latter*, and render'd

M 2

what

what follows, of Absolute Necessity; *Viz.* That I am a **Church-
of-England-Man**, both upon Choyce and Education; never was, nor am likely to be Affected either to **Popery** or **Phanaticism**; no **Lozy, Courtier, Pensioner**; or ever Oblig'd by **King, or Duke**, in any Particular Grace and Favour; but wholly **Independent**: That what I have Written, is out of Pure Love for the Truth, Zeal for the Publick; to prevent those Calamities, which seem to do more than threaten this Unhappy and Distracted *Kingdom*; and from which, nothing but *God's* Good Providence, in the Wisdom and Moderation, Courage and Prudence of Our *King* and *Parliament*, is (I fear me) able to

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Defend it: And that those Evident *Truths*, which I have deliver'd in Relation to the *House of Commons*, cannot reasonably give any sort of *Offence*, at least if the *Occasion* be duely Consider'd; and that the Malice or Arrogance of my **Antagonist**, and sundry *Others*, has carry'd them so far, as to trample upon all the Positive and Fundamental Laws of the Land, by Publishing dayly in Print, (either *Directly* too, or by palpable *Implication*) to the manifest Hazard of the State, That *Monarchy* is not so much as *Jure Nature*, or Unalterable by Human Power, without apparent Violence; but *All Forms of Government* Changeable at the Will and Pleasure of the *People*; and **Durs**, in Particular, *Co-ordinate*, or *Worse*.

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I shall add no more ; but only Inculcate (as a *Farewel*, and perhaps not altogether Impertinently neither) what *King James* (our *British Solomon*) has said in *Pag. 179.* of His Answer to *Cardinal Peron.* *A Breach made by One Mischief,* (writes He) *must not be fill'd up by a Greater Inconvenience: An Error must not be shock'd or shoulder'd with Disloyalty; nor Heresy with Perjury; nor Impiety with Sedition, and Armed Rebellion against God, and the King.* God, who used to try, and to school His Church, will never forsake His Church; nor hath need to Protect His Church by any Proditorious Practices of Perfidious Christians.

THE END.

